



Crossed from the right wing

LAST WEEK'S AVERAGE DAILY SALE 437,000
No 63,255

THE TIMES



(30p)

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3 1988

Haughey in summit snub for Thatcher

Angry exchanges as Ryan row hits EEC

● The row over the Patrick Ryan extradition overshadowed the EEC summit in Rhodes yesterday.
● Mrs Thatcher and Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, both reacted angrily at a tense meeting.
● Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey appeared to snub Mrs Thatcher, cancelling planned talks.
● The legal row between London and Dublin intensified with Britain implying Irish complaints were insubstantial.

From Richard Owen, Rhodes, and Philip Webster and Jamie Detmer, London

Britain's relations with Ireland and Belgium plummeted further yesterday at the European Community summit in Rhodes over the extradition controversy surrounding Father Patrick Ryan.

Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, cancelled a planned meeting with Mrs Thatcher, and Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, responded angrily to a "severe dressing down" from her over Belgium's failure to extradite the Irishman to Britain.

Mrs Thatcher told Mr Martens that she was dismayed, mystified and "deeply wounded" by the Belgian action. He in turn accused her of not understanding Belgian law.

In London, the Crown Prosecution Service issued a cryptic statement about Dub-

Blast-off for shuttle Atlantis's secret mission



The orbiter Atlantis, on a Defence Department secret mission, taking off from Kennedy Space Centre after a one-day delay. Report, page 16.

Soviet hijackers give themselves up in Israel

Tel Aviv (Reuters) - Five hijackers who commandeered a Soviet transport plane and forced it to fly to Israel surrendered to authorities at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport last night soon after landing, an army spokesman said.

The four men and a woman handed over a revolver and a large sum of money they had stolen in the Soviet Union, he said. "It's all over and no one was hurt."

The hijacking began on Thursday when the assailants stole a school bus with pupils and teachers on board in the southern Russian city of Ordzhonikidze, and demanded to be flown out of the Soviet Union, officials in Moscow said.

"To save the teachers and children, a decision was taken to provide a plane to the

Heavy demand for Steel shares

Investors put up a total of more than £4 billion for the £2.5 billion sell-off of British Steel, despite a falling stock-market.

In a result which seemed to have surprised even the sponsors of the issue, when lists closed yesterday morning at 10.01 am, public applications had been submitted for more than a billion shares.

Only a week earlier, it had been feared that a sharp setback in the stock market caused by poor trade figures would put the sell-off in danger.

More than 500,000 applications were received in the public offer for sale, and while the bankers were still counting and processing the forms last night, it appears that requests were submitted for up to two and a half times the number of shares on offer.

The main part of the total issue of two billion shares had already been sold to institutions in Britain and to overseas investors, leaving only 452 million shares for the public offer.

In the event, demand was high enough to trigger "claw-back" clauses under which not only the overseas investors but also British institutions will have to forego part of their allocations in favour of the public applicants.

The offer was priced to attract the maximum number of investors, and when the issue price of 125p was set by Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, he faced claims that he was selling "too cheaply."

But the day after the price was announced, October's trade figures revealed a £2.4 billion trade gap, which hit the stock market and raised doubts that the issue would be fully subscribed.

Details of the allocations of shares will be announced tomorrow.

In today's 56-page Times

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INSIDE
Argentine rebellion
As President Alfonsin of Argentina prepared to address the UN General Assembly yesterday the Argentine Army high command sent troops to the country's largest military base to crush a rebellion. *page 8*

lin's request for further information before it could further consider the extradition request in a manner which suggested it did not regard the issues raised as in any way substantial.

And Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, speaking during the Epping Forest by-election campaign yesterday, said: "We will need to look and so will the Irish at the arrangements which have been discussed but which clearly don't work in a way which is satisfactory."

The planned bilateral talks between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Haughey may instead be held today, at the end of the two-day summit.

But Irish officials here made little secret of the fact that the Thatcher-Haughey encounter, normally a routine feature of European summits, had been scrapped because of Mr Haughey's resentment over Mrs Thatcher's remarks on the failure of the Irish authorities to apprehend Father Ryan, wanted in Britain as a suspected IRA paymaster and bomb-maker.

The official reason given for the cancellation was Mr Haughey's "personal convenience", an apparent reference to his health following a recent operation.

There was further Irish anger over hints that if and when Mrs Thatcher does meet the Taoiseach, she will ask him to redraft Irish extradition law on the ground that it is clearly too complex to work properly.

A spokesman for Mr Haughey said that extradition arrangements between Britain and the Irish Republic were already "the easiest in the EEC". Earlier this year, Mr Haughey agreed to review extradition procedures if they were not working properly.

But officials said it was, in any case, too late to redraft the

Sex assault case judge to retire immediately

Judge Harold Cassell, who was criticized for his remarks when sentencing a man convicted of indecently assaulting his stepdaughter, is to retire immediately on medical grounds. The judge who is 72, could have continued on the bench until next June.

A statement from the Lord Chancellor's Office said that he tendered his resignation the

TV chiefs praise superno choice

Mr George Russell, chief executive of the Marley building group and recently appointed chairman of ITN, was named last night as the new commercial television superno who will oversee Britain's televisions revolution in the 1990s.



Mr George Russell: knowledge of commercial TV.

His appointment by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, was greeted with undisguised glee by broadcasters last night.

Mr Russell, aged 53, not only has a first class record in commerce and industry, but also an intimate knowledge and understanding of commercial television in Britain. He was a lay member on the IBA between 1979 and 1986 before taking up the deputy chairmanship of Channel 4 in January 1987. In

He will not only take over from Lord Thomson of Monifieth as chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority in the New Year, but also head the authority's successor body, the Independent Television Commission.

"We have found no inherent reason to doubt the long-term viability of the industry," says the report, which also criticizes the university for operating at high unit costs and being slow to attract research funds.

A university spokesman said the principal was not prepared to discuss what would happen if the extra £5 million was not forthcoming from the UGC.

"Our attitude is the same as the consultants, collapse is not an option. It is inconceivable that the university would be allowed to go bust," he said.

Aberdeen University faces insolvency

The University of Aberdeen is accumulating debt at a rate of £2 million a year and faces insolvency unless it receives a substantial injection of funds, according to an in-depth study of the university's financial state.

The report, financed by the Universities Grants Committee, says the position is "clearly untenable, not only for itself and its staff and students but also for the UGC and ultimately the Government".

In the report Segal, Quince, Wicksteed, the management consultants, say the committee should "provide special financial assistance to the university to enable it to get its deficit fully under control", providing it complied with recommendations to rationalize its management structure, improve financial planning, produce a plan to elimi-

nate the deficit and postpone new developments.

An extra £5 million should be paid to the university over four years, starting with an emergency payment of £7 million next year if the university and the committee agree to comply with recommendations, which require it to save an extra £2 million over the next two years.

Professor George McNicol, principal of the university, yesterday said it was reassuring that an independent financial firm thought the university was in sufficiently good heart to warrant an extra £5 million of taxpayers' money.

He said £1 million could be saved from the "non-payroll" sector of the university but cuts of a further £1 million would result in the loss of at least 35 jobs.

The University of Aberdeen already plans to cut 130 jobs as part of a financial rescue plan launched in November 1987 and was forced to cut staff by a quarter

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IMPORTANT
PUBLIC AUCTION
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Pakistan power battle

Bhutto dons father's crown while rival rules Punjab

From Anatol Lieven, Islamabad

Miss Benazir Bhutto was sworn in as Prime Minister of Pakistan yesterday at the presidential palace here...

Party looks set to form the government in the smaller North-West Frontier Province, in alliance with the local Awami National Party.

Abida Hussain has now begun to talk of the need to reflect such Punjabi feeling. She seems likely to emerge as leader of the opposition in Parliament.

intelligence and courage. Both opposed General Zia's Islamization policy. Both are, however, in their different ways, in thrall to the traditional values of the mass of the population.

Botha releases black editor but with harshest restrictions so far

Johannesburg (AP) - Prominent anti-apartheid activist and journalist, Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu, who had been detained without charge for two years, was released yesterday but placed under severe restrictions.

operate outside of the Conservative Party policy in Boksburg. The extreme right-wing Conservative Party won control of the council in last month's municipal elections and has decreed that blacks will be barred from council-owned facilities and forbidden from trading in the town centre.



Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu leaving Diepkloof prison yesterday with his lawyer.

Mr Sisulu, editor of the New Nation newspaper, is barred from working on the publication, cannot leave the Johannesburg area, must report to police twice a day and is required to be in his Soweto township home at night.

Peace snags: Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, and General Magnus Malan, the Defence Minister, flew to Brazzaville in the Congo Republic early yesterday after serious last-minute snags arose in the peace talks between Angola, Cuba and South Africa (Ray Kennedy writes).

They were due to go there today to sign a formal protocol on a Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola and the implementation of United Nations-supervised independence in Namibia.

Mr Botha compared the search for peace in the region with drilling for water. "At this stage we've hit solid rock," he said.

General Malan gave no details of what has gone wrong, but it is believed they are serious enough to jeopardize months of negotiations in which the United States has acted as mediator and which began in London in April.

It was reported here yesterday that soldiers and supporters of Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita rebel movement in Angola were crossing in large numbers into the Caprivi Strip area of Namibia.

The Johannesburg Weekly Mail newspaper - back on the streets yesterday after being banned by the Government for a month - said it appeared to be a strategic ploy to pre-empt the arrival of the United Nations peace-keeping force, Untag.

Dr Andre Du Pisani, a specialist on Namibian/Angolan affairs with the South African Institute of International Affairs, described the Unita factor as potentially the greatest threat to ending conflict in the area, rather than the dispute over verification of the withdrawal over a 27-month period of an estimated 50,000 Congolese troops.

Girl bomber who killed 115



Kim You Hui waiting yesterday at the Seoul District Prosecutor's office to be interrogated about her confession that she blew up a South Korean airliner a year ago.

Clues to sabotage in train accident

Cuzco (AP) - Peruvian police are investigating whether a rail crash in the Andes which injured the mayors of Jersey City and Cuzco and killed their wives was caused by saboteurs who supported a national strike.

Transport and police spokesmen said that steel rods were found near the site where the railway wagon, taking the dignitaries to visit the Inca Citadel of Machu Picchu, careened off the tracks and plunged down a ravine.

The officials said the likely target was a passenger service, running behind the tourist train which was making an unscheduled trip.

Fleet returns

Suez (AP) - A British naval task force of six ships, including the destroyer Edinburgh on which Prince Andrew serves, steamed towards home through the Suez Canal from a Far Eastern mission marked by anti-nuclear protests.

Briton appeals

Huelva (Reuter) - A Spanish judge sentenced Dave Enever, the British skipper of the Greenpeace boat Sirius, to a month's imprisonment for ignoring a ban and collecting seawater for pollution checks, but the term was suspended pending appeal.

Leader quits

Bonn - Herr Bernhard Vogel, the Christian Democrat Prime Minister of Rheinland-Pfalz, resigned the post after his failure last month to be re-elected state party chairman.

Mine attacked

Melbourne (AP) - Villagers in Papua New Guinea sabotaged power supplies to the Bougainville copper mine, one of the world's biggest, stopping production, officials alleged.

Strike grows

Paris (Reuter) - A strike by transport workers that seriously hit commuter services all week spread, with five unions joining action to press for higher pay and 55 per cent of bus services not running.

Ban on Prince

Bonn - West Germany has refused entry to Prince Reza Pahlavi, son of the late Shah of Iran, who planned to speak to 6,000 Iranian exiles in Cologne tomorrow.

Flights off

Delhi (AFP) - State-run Indian Airlines cancelled four flights scheduled to leave Bombay after pilots refused to fly without ground navigational aids, the Press Trust of India reported.

Police plaudit

Peking (Reuter) - Police in northern China praised a group of more than 20 citizens who fatally clubbed a mugger after capturing him red-handed, the official Legal Daily said.

UK warns allies against Gaddafi

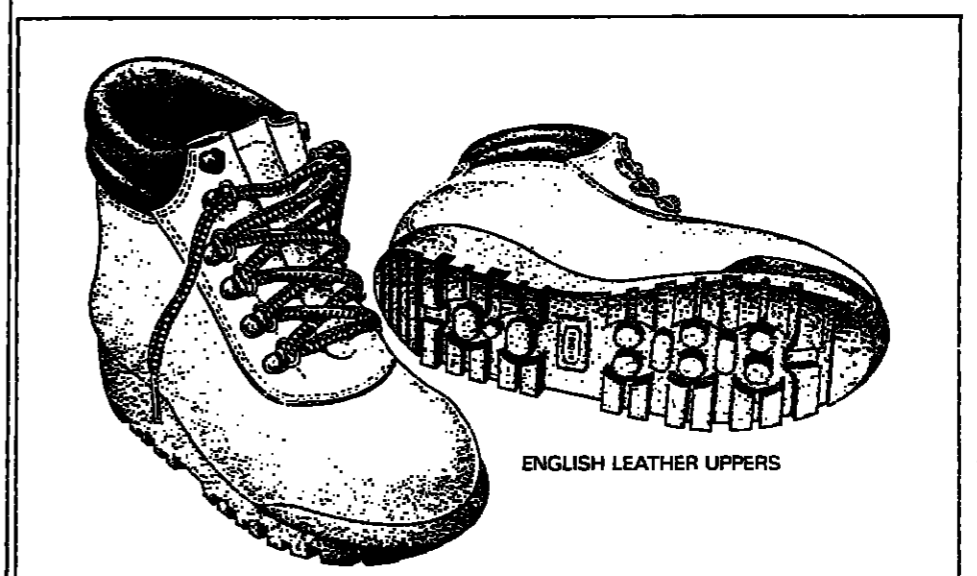
By Nicholas Beeston

With Libya still supporting terrorism, Britain - backed by the United States - is warning its European allies not to be taken in by Colonel Gaddafi's bid to ingratiate himself with the West.

British fears emerged after this week's visit to Rome by the Libyan, second-in-command, Major Abdel Jalloud, who met senior Italian officials, including Signor Ciriaco De Mita, the Prime Minister.

Major Jalloud said on Thursday that Libya was trying to interest Italy in a 15 to 20-year commercial agreement worth £17 million to £22 million which would provide for development projects.

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Beirut kidnap victim

Swiss hostage in plea for his life

From Juan Carlos Guncio, Beirut

Mr Peter Winkler, the Swiss volunteer of the International Red Cross abducted in southern Lebanon last month, yesterday appealed to his Government to meet the demands of his captors as the only way to save his life.

The appeal was made in a brief handwritten note sent to a Western news agency in west Beirut. The letter indicated that the kidnappers are offering to exchange him with Mr Hussein Hariri, a Shia Muslim Lebanese imprisoned in Switzerland for the hijacking of an Air Afrique jetliner in 1987.

"I am here for more than two weeks now", wrote Mr Winkler. "And maybe I will stay here for long time. I was kidnapped not as a Red Cross delegate but as a Swiss citizen. My Government knows what my kidnappers want from it and it has to co-operate in order to save my life."

In Bern, Swiss officials said the letter was authentic and the kidnapping appeared to be related to the arrest of Mr Hariri, who is also charged with the death of one passenger. His trial was scheduled to



Mr Winkler: Believed held by Abu Nidal gunmen.

Advertisement for Halfords fitness equipment: LOSE YOUR SPARE TYRE AT HALFORDS. Includes images of exercise bikes and treadmills.

Advertisement for The Times walking boots: THE TIMES LONG LIFE WALKING BOOTS. Includes form for ordering.

Loyal soldiers ring army base seized by Argentine rebels

From Michael Llanos, Buenos Aires

Loyal troops of the Argentine Army, backed by tanks and heavy artillery, yesterday surrounded an important army base occupied by rebel officers and Coast Guard commandos who on Thursday abandoned their barracks in the second military rebellion this year.

President Alfonsín, who left for Mexico and the United States on Wednesday, refused to change his schedule, but ordered the rebellion put down "as soon as possible".

Vice-President Victor Martínez, who is running the country until Señor Alfonsín's return today, had a meeting with the commanders of the three armed forces yesterday to discuss strategy.

By mid-morning the rebels had mounted a heavy machinegun at the gate of the Army Infantry School at Campo de Mayo, Argentina's largest military base, just outside the capital. Several young officers in combat uniform, their faces blackened, patrolled the grounds.

Meanwhile, the Army Chief of Staff, General Dante Caridi, ordered the loyal troops to the site. By noon five tanks were in position, their gun barrels pointing at the school's main building. Infantrymen sur-

rounded the grounds and an army helicopter kept watch.

By early afternoon reinforcements, including heavy artillery, had arrived at the school. General Isidro Cáceres was put in charge of dislodging the rebels.

Government officials confirmed the rebels were under the command of Colonel Mohammed Ali Seineldin, a Falklands War veteran said to have supported the failed mutiny of Easter, 1987, led by Colonel Aldo Rico, a friend of Colonel Seineldin now awaiting a court-martial.

Colonel Seineldin was recently passed over for promotion and not given a new posting for next year — a sign that he would soon be retired. Currently posted to Panama to instruct that country's defence forces, he returned to Argentina on Wednesday, according to a rebel spokesman identifying himself as Lieutenant-Colonel Olivera.

The spokesman said that some of the Coast Guard commandos who abandoned their barracks on Thursday had taken refuge in the school.

Some 50 Coast Guard commandos of the 170-man Albatros unit, four of them officers, rebelled on Thursday,

driving off in three lorries with 200 army rifles and 100,000 rounds of ammunition.

A young officer guarding the school entrance said the rebellion was to protest against the Army's decision to pass Colonel Seineldin over for promotion. Colonel Olivera, however, was deliberately vague, saying only that the action was "due to the internal crisis affecting the Army".

But Senator Juan Berhongaray, the chairman of the Senate's defence commission, described the incident as an attempted coup.

Other government leaders linked the rebellion both to that of Easter, 1987, and that of last January. The infantry school was also the site of the 1987 mutiny led by Colonel Rico.

Government sources said "two or three officers" and some other units had tried to join the rebellion on Thursday, but no other incidents were reported yesterday.

The spokesman said that military judges have begun investigating the actions of these officers, one of them the son of former military President Jorge Videla, who is serving a life sentence for human rights violations in the 1970s "dirty war".

Australia expels Yugoslavs over shooting

From Christopher Morris, Sydney



The Daily Telegraph of Sydney yesterday published this picture on its front page, said to be of Mr Matijas Zoran, the Yugoslav security guard who is at the centre of the diplomatic row.

Australia last night closed the Yugoslav Consulate in Sydney and declared the entire staff *persona non grata* after Belgrade rejected a demand for the handing over of a security guard who allegedly shot and wounded a schoolboy five days ago during a protest.

Canberra had set a 24-hour deadline for the surrender of the guard, Mr Matijas Zoran, who has been hiding in the building since last Sunday when he is alleged to have fired the shot from inside the grounds that seriously wounded José Tokics, aged 15.

For the past three days, the consulate has been under siege by police with a warrant for his arrest. The Yugoslavs were given an ultimatum to hand over the guard by 6pm local time yesterday or the consulate would be closed and all the staff expelled.

Throughout the day, there were behind-the-scenes negotiations between Canberra, Sydney and Belgrade, but the Yugoslav Government refused to back down and Australia was determined to show no weakness. As the deadline passed Senator Gareth Evans, the Foreign Minister, an-

nounced Australia's threat had been carried out.

Yugoslavia was adamant the security guard would not be handed over, but said that no retaliatory action would be taken against Australian diplomats in Belgrade. But retaliation against Australia's trade is expected to be a consequence of the Government's stand. Last year Australian companies exported goods totalling almost \$A100 million (\$47 million) to Yugoslavia, more than double the trade in the other direction.

An immediate effect of the consulate shutdown was distress for many Yugoslavs trying to get visas to leave Australia to spend Christmas at home. There were emotional scenes outside the building as they pleaded for visas but were told to apply at the Yugoslav Embassy in Canberra, more than 100 miles away.

New South Wales police yesterday had prepared plans to try to seize the security guard during the half-hour journey to the airport. But international law requires the Australian authorities to give the Yugoslavs safe passage from the consulate.

Sir Joh admits he did not tackle vice

Sydney — Exactly a year after being forced to resign as Premier of Queensland, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen yesterday gave testimony in an attempt to salvage his political reputation, tarnished by allegations of large-scale corruption during his 19 years in office (Christopher Morris writes).

Sir Joh, aged 77, was making his long-awaited appearance before a royal commission in Brisbane, where he declared he never dreamed corruption existed, and that he had never accepted a bribe.

Sir Joh did admit, however, that he let allegations of police corruption "with the vine" because he did not know which senior police officers he could trust.

He said he had heard allegations of corruption from two policemen who met him in Brisbane hotel rooms. The allegations concerned police protection for prostitution and betting activities to which five police officers have since confessed.

But Sir Joh said the Queensland Police Commissioner, Sir Terence Lewis, now suspended, had assured him the allegations were untrue.

"I didn't know who to believe and what was what," he said. "I let the whole matter wither on the vine. The whole episode seemed to be such a tangled web involving women and so forth that I could never make head or tail of the whole thing."

Sir Joh repeatedly told the inquiry he believed that a minister or a premier had to trust his chief officers' integrity and their advice.

"If you are not prepared to take the advice of your top officers, then who do you go to?" he asked.

He admitted that in hindsight he had not paid as much attention to prostitution in Queensland as he should have.

Questioning of Sir Joh so far has focused mainly on Sir Terence's appointment.

Sir Joh is expected to be giving evidence until the end of next week, when the inquiry, which started in January, is expected to end.

Miss Egypt contest rouses fundamentalist passions

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

The American organizers of Miss Egypt, the only beauty contest in the Muslim Arab world, are throwing down the gauntlet to Islamic fundamentalists and preparing to advertise openly in the Cairo press for the 1989 show, to be known coyly as "The Best Girl in Egypt Contest".

Revived in 1986 after being abandoned in the early 1960s under heavy religious pressure, it has been publicized discreetly by word of mouth in social clubs. Even this has not prevented bomb threats and rumours in the universities that contestants would have acid thrown in their faces.

As a gesture to reduce public feeling in a country where an increasing number of young women

are wearing the veil, the chief organizer, Miss Marie Frances, a US television producer, has banned men from judging the section where the girls parade in swimsuits. "We now stage that in a private suite with only women judges," she said.

Miss Frances, who said she was invited to restart the contest by the Ministry of Tourism, anxious to dissociate Egypt's image from more extreme Islamic countries like Iran, has just received permission from the Government to advertise openly for contestants in *al-Ahram*, the main Egyptian daily.

"The Ministry of Tourism are behind this move. They were surprised and how much it has done to improve Egypt's image abroad," explained Miss Frances, who has arranged for the finalists to parade

in evening gowns and cocktail dresses in front of a mixed jury in the Nile Hilton Hotel in Cairo.

News that the contest is going to be promoted publicly (albeit under a suitably modest name) has already aroused anger among spokesmen for the Muslim Brotherhood, the most tolerant of the Egypt-based Islamic groupings, which has members in Parliament in the opposition coalition.

"I believe the mass of the people will rebuff this deliberate provocation," said Mr Adel Hussein, editor of *al-Shaab*, the coalition's newspaper. "It will not be only the mosque that will fight against it, but the Christian church as well. Ninety-nine per cent of our people are against Egyptian women competing like this."

Miss Gameela Ismail, a young

Egyptian journalist who covered the heavily guarded 1988 finals, said: "The fact it is being advertised in advance means there will be great resistance to it."

Miss Ismail added: "To minimize the risks of protests from Islamic extremists, the organizers this year tried to compromise. Participants were advised not to walk in a provocative way or to wear low-cut dresses — but not all of them followed the advice."

The sensitivity of the contest was apparent from the start in 1986 when many girls walked out on hearing they would have to parade past male judges in their swimsuits. Those remaining had to be taken by bus to a venue at a private villa 50 miles outside Cairo to reduce the risk of disruption.

"The great majority of those

taking part are Muslims, not (Christian) Coptic Egyptians as many people imagine," Miss Frances said. "They are just girls who can see nothing wrong in such an event and are excited by the prospects of foreign travel it opens up."

Winners here are eligible to take part in the Miss World, Miss Universe and Miss Wonderland contests.

Miss Frances appears unruffled by the prospect of militant Islamic opposition to her latest venture.

"As an American, I am used to facing up to people with opposing opinions. On this occasion, I am not worried at all," she said. "After the recent scandal involving the Islamic investment companies in Egypt, I feel that public support for the ideas of the fundamentalists is much less strong than it was when we started out two years ago."

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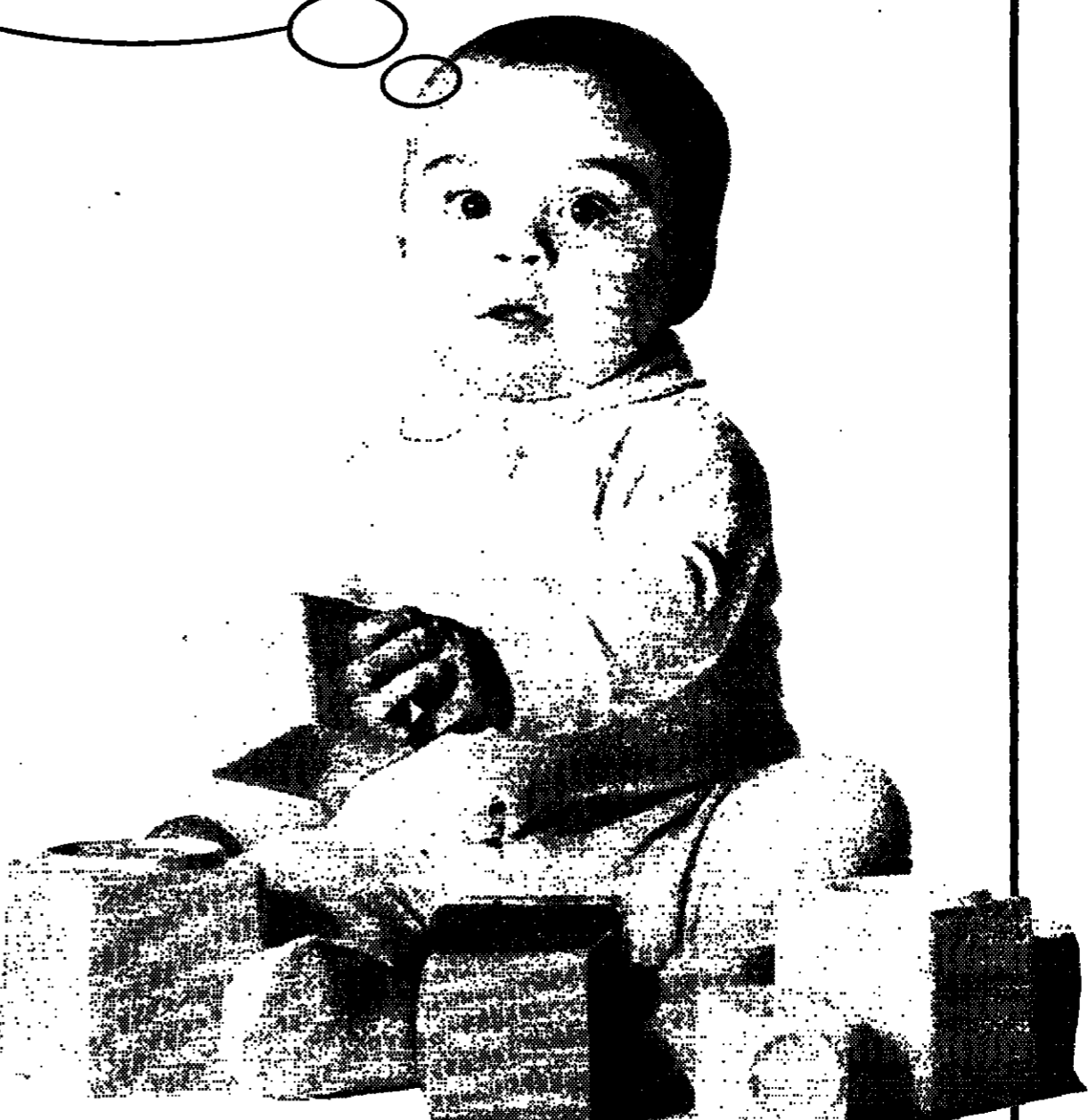
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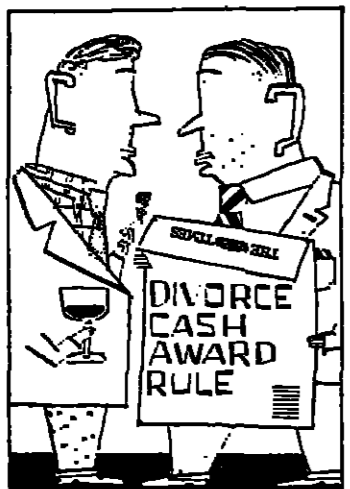
This is the column that never forgets old friends. Loyal readers will recall Westfield of the Danair Combined Counties League...

The most interesting four-ball of the season was played at Sunningdale golf course this week.

The last male bastion but one in English cricket is about to fall. After 124 years, all signs point to the admission of women into the pavilion at Old Trafford.

I received a telephone call from Alex Smith, son of Ian Smith, of Rhodesia, who is promoting a match that will effectively decide the football world championship.

BARRY FANTONI



'Amanda and I are breaking up - it's the only way we can afford our higher mortgage repayments'

A book with the working title The Wisden Guide to First Class Cricket Grounds is under way. It will be packed with information about Britain's 60 first-class grounds...

More statistics: yes, I can prove by figures that the reason Glamorgan always lose is not because they are no good, but because they are trapped in the insipid dampness of Wales.

It's a hard life, being the first Soviet player in Italian football. Alexander Zavarov of Juventus, formerly with the great Dinamo Kiev side, has just been suspended after being sent off.

Remember the underwater backstroke? It has just been declared illegal by the international swimming organization, FINA.

The row over the extradition of Father Ryan this week has provided a typical example of what makes it so difficult to avoid misunderstandings...

Time and again in Ulster, when all appears quiet and one begins to hope there is a chance that people will start talking together...

The sensitivities of the Irish as seen through the eyes and ears of Dublin are not appreciated in London. For us the problems of the island of Ireland appear relatively minor.

James Prior puts the Ryan extradition affair in perspective Ulster: no turning back

Whereas the vast majority of Irish politicians and people are well disposed towards us, are equally aghast at terrorism and determined to deal with it effectively...

Conversely, in our eyes, for Dublin to allow terrorists to disappear into the Irish mists is bound to generate anger and exasperation.

to defeat the IRA. The Republic, for its part, would improve security arrangements with the North and would also make extradition of offenders easier.

Politically there has been no advance. Despite the obviously enhanced position of the nationalist community, it has responded only lukewarmly to political involvement with the Unionists.

with the agreement. After all, they were given a new degree of advantage and credibility which the Unionists bitterly resented and were denied themselves.

Many Unionists, although angry about the way the agreement was engineered, recognize that it will not go away and, that, however provoked and frustrated Mrs Thatcher may be by present events, she will stick by it.

Yes, and I doubt if he would want to be seen as the saviour of Mr Ian Paisley's prejudices.

We must not allow the events of the last few days and a torrid summer to deflect us from the policy followed since the signing of the agreement three years ago.

Marcus Binney

Preying on the churches

The speed and suddenness with which the Mappa Mundi has been whisked to Sotheby's has provoked an outcry on a scale the chairman of Sotheby's clearly never anticipated.

For the controversy has spotlighted the unceasing attempts of the salerooms to boost their turnover by prising treasures from the settings for which they were created or designed.

At least a third of the loans to recent major exhibitions of Romanesque and Gothic art have come from cathedrals, exciting the interest of salerooms and dealers in treasures which have lain forgotten in cathedral libraries for years.

The contents of churches cannot be sold without permission from the chancellor of the diocese, the ecclesiastical equivalent of a high court judge.

Fortunately the most valuable collection in ecclesiastical hands is the least touchable. The monuments in parish churches, medieval alabaster knights, Elizabethan squires in painted stone...

The most serious threat to a church monument came some 12 years ago when Christie's began to negotiate a private sale of one of the finest works by Noldeke, the 18th-century artist and sculptor, from Holy Trinity, Wetheral, in Cumberland.

came clear, the sale lapsed. More recently the parish of St Margaret Louthbury in the City of London was refused permission to sell a fine bust of Sir Peter Le Maire by the sculptor Hubert Le Sueur...

Boore had the worthy sentiment that all those who came to admire the church should have the opportunity of seeing a likeness of the man who designed it.

Attempts to sell major paintings from parish churches have also been successfully resisted so far.

The parish argued that such a valuable painting could not be protected from theft or vandalism. The chancellor, recognizing the importance of the painting to the church, ruled that the parish should install a sophisticated alarm system instead.



The sale was allowed because funds were needed for repairs. Some protection is provided by the classic judgment on the flagons from St Gregory Tredington in Warwickshire...

When Sotheby's auctioned the contents of Tynningham in Lothian a year ago two big rococo overmantels in the drawing room - part of the original decorative scheme - were sold, leaving a nasty gap on the wall.

Commentary • MICHAEL KINSLEY

At home with Uncle

Washington Canada? That is the question millions of Americans ask as usual, were not asking in recent weeks as Canadians fought a bitter election campaign over the fate of a free trade agreement with the United States.

Clearly they are all torn up inside. They desperately want love but are unable to supply it in return.

There is only one cure for this complex neurosis. We must give Canadians what they secretly want. We must embrace them, adopt them, love them, annex them. In short, we must make Canada the 51st state.

So, doctor, whence this recurrent nightmare? Well, it doesn't take a PhD in psychology to realize that Canadians mock horror at the thought of being swallowed by the US actually masks a deep desire for precisely that. They protest too much. Their lips say "no, no", but their eyes say "yes, yes".

Although it never occurred to me that Canada should become the 51st state until Canadians began insisting hysterically, and unconvincingly, that they don't want to be one, now that they have brought it up I can see that such an arrangement would have many advantages for the United States as well.

Woolly left-wing one-worlders should appreciate the erasure of any international border, no matter how faint or porous it is already. We are all fellow passengers on spaceship earth, are we not?

I hear some of my fellow citizens saying: "Not so fast, Buster." Why should we share our flag - the very symbol over which dozens of political consultants fought valiantly in our own recent election - with 25 million foreigners? Don't we have millions of humourless neurotics of our own, in desperate need of teasing, who won't get the attention they deserve if our society is suddenly overwhelmed by Canadians?

Free traders, of course, should appreciate the addition of a new market the size of California (in financial terms) to the United States economy. Protectionist sentiments would melt away with the border.

Ecologists, zero-population-growth running-out-of-room types and so on would love the acquisition of a land mass larger than the continental United States with one tenth of the population. Our ratio of population per acre would instantly be halved.

From almost any point of view, then, the advantages to the United States of merging with Canada are overwhelming. And they want it. You know they want it. Hey, you great, gorgeous piece of frozen northland. Come to Uncle.

What, at first sight, appeared a run-of-the-mill report closes with the words which are still at the heart of every struggle for freedom throughout the world.

AMERICA [THE CIVIL WAR]

Reports from Moultrie asserted that on the previous day one of the Monitors had her funnel and turret perforated by the Confederate shells. On the 17th four Monitors passed up the channel, but as they did not participate in the firing it was believed that they were sounding to ascertain if there was passage for vessels of a certain draught.

The bombardment of Sumter continued: 25 shells were thrown into the city from Gregg, doing no serious damage. One of the Federal guns burst at the last discharge. Indications of more extensive operations on the part of the Federals were apparent.

Advices from New Orleans of the 14th report the occupation, without opposition, of Buirville and Point Isabel, in Texas, by General Banks. A chaplain of a Federal regiment who was taken prisoner at Morris Island, but released on Wednesday last, relates that several Confederate officers admitted to him that the accounts of the sufferings of the Federal prisoners at Richmond from exposure and scanty feeding which have recently appeared in the Northern journals are not exaggerated.

ON THIS DAY 1863

reaches Richmond; the Confederate soldiers being of necessity first supplied. Little is left for the 13,000 prisoners in and around the city. On some days it has been found impossible to serve more than one piece of unspiced cornmeal bread to each prisoner. It is now reported that the objection of the Confederate authorities to forward supplies from the Northern States for the Federal prisoners at Richmond arose from the use of the word "commissaries" instead of "commissary stores" in the request for their transportation.

The consecration of the Gettysburg battle-field as a national cemetery took place on Thursday, President Lincoln, Mr Seward, the Hon Edward Everett, and Governor Seymour were present. Mr Lincoln delivered the dedicatory address, in which he said:

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men were created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether the nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met upon a grand battlefield of that war. We are met to dedicate a portion of it as the final resting place of those who here gave their lives that the nation might live, and to resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain - that the nation shall, under God, have a new birth of freedom, and that the government of the people by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

The author is editor of New Republic.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 2: Mr. Michael Nesbitt M.P. (Vice-Chamberlain of the Household) was received in audience by The Queen and presented an Address from the House of Commons to which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to make reply.

Luncheons and dinners

"Saints and Sinners" Club Mr Richard Morris presided at the "Saints and Sinners" Club Christmas luncheon held yesterday at the Savoy Hotel.

Dinners

Lord Underhill Lord and Lady Underhill entertained members and guests of the International Cultural Exchange at dinner in the House of Lords last night.

University news

Appointments Professor J. F. Healey Scientific Studies: Jeanette Young (President) D. J. H. Jones (President) Grant

Memorial Concert

Eva Ursula Paucha A concert in memory of the scientist Eva Paucha Smith (formerly of Highgate), who died June 23, 1988, at the age of 38, will be held on Sunday, December 18, 1988, at the Unitarian Church, Pond Square, Highgate.

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Clifford Longley A question of leadership

Religion in Britain has a leadership problem. Critics of the churches tend to see it as a failure of effective personal leadership, a criticism directed at the style of leadership of such persons as the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster.

Birthdays

Mr Mel Smith, 36 Today: The Marquis of Ailes, 63; Mr Leslie Ames, cricketer, 63; Mr Walter Anderson, trade unionist, 78; Mr Trevor Bailey, cricketer, 65; Mr Ralph Bennett, former chairman, London Transport Executive, 85; Mrs Pamela Walker, KCB, Representative Colonel Commandant of the Royal Tank Regiment, presided at a dinner held at Bovington Camp on Friday to commemorate the anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr R. Munglani and Dr J.L.M. Bolland The engagement is announced between Rajesh, elder son of Mr and Mrs R.R. Munglani, of Northwood, Middlesex, and Jane, younger daughter of Sir Edwin and Lady Bolland, of Godden Green, Sevenoaks.

Anniversaries

TODAY: Birth: Robert Bloomfield, poet, Honington, Suffolk, 1706; Samuel Crompton, inventor of the spinning mule, Firwood, Lancs, 1753; Sir Rowland Hill, originator of the penny post, Kiddleminster, 1795; Frederick Leighton, Barrow, 1830; Joseph Conrad, Berdichev, Russia, 1857; Anton von Webern, composer, Vienna, 1883; Rajendra Prasad, first president of the Republic of India, 1950-63; Zerand, Bihar, 1884.

THOMAS SMITH (HERSTMONCEUX) EST. 1829 The Original Makers of The Royal Sussex Trug The World's Most Distinguished Garden Basket A Unique Christmas Gift

Appointments Mr A D Bright to be HM Ambassador to the Republic of China in succession to Mr A E Palmer.

OBITUARIES MARGARET MEE Explorer and painter of Amazon flora

Margaret Mee, the renowned botanical artist, was killed in a car crash near Seagrave in Leicestershire on November 30. She was 79.



For some years she had lived in Brazil but had returned to her native England (she was born near Chesham in May 1909) to open an exhibition of her Amazon paintings at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and for the publication of In Search of the Flowers of the Amazon Forests, edited by Tony Morrison.

SIR PETER DIXON Building up RAF's peace-time medical services

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Peter Dixon, KBE, who rebuilt the Royal Air Force's surgical expertise after the Second World War, died on November 22, at the age of 81.

REAR-ADMIRAL GEORGE LESLIE Two careers - naval and academic

Rear-Admiral George Cunningham Leslie, CB, OBE, Domestic Bureau of St Edmund Hall, Oxford, from 1970 until last September, who died on November 14 at the age of 68, had been the doyen of Oxford Domestic Bursars.

Memorial services

The Duke of St Albans The Lord Mayor of Westminster was represented by Mr Robert Flach at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of the Duke of St Albans held yesterday at St Mary's Church, Westminster.

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SHOPPING

Glassy point of sale

Britain's museum shops are going into the replica business. Deyan Sudjic reports



Busy at the cases: inspecting the contents of the Victoria & Albert Museum shop

Shortly before Sir Roy Strong's sudden departure from the Victoria & Albert Museum last year, he blurted out that what he really wanted to do for the museum was to make it the Laura Ashley of the 1990s. It was one of his more quixotic statements, brought on by the need to raise the cash to fix the V & A's leaking roof, and rescue its more distant galleries from 20 years of squalor and neglect. But it was, nevertheless, a notion which reflects the rapidly changing face of the modern museum.

Whether they like it or not, museums have become one of the late 20th century's more important growth industries. Run by directors who are more likely to be cultural impresarios than scholars, they have become as fiercely competitive as any high street retail chain. Like department stores, they are forever opening new wings, refurbishing their restaurants, and opening bigger and better shops. Indeed, museums' policies are geared more and more to boosting their positions in the visitor ratings table. It is the big, flashy shows that pull in the numbers, and provide a

chance to relieve the punters of ever larger sums of money, spent on the associated merchandise. And the curators fight to put them on.

New York's Metropolitan Museum is perhaps the most conspicuous victim of museum elephantiasis. Its endless new wings now seem to stretch half way across Central Park, and its shop, along with its mail order business, has a turnover of \$200 million (£105 million) a year, selling everything from postcards to log baskets. A museum chargecard can't be far off.

At the Museum of Modern Art, also in New York, the museum shop, newly extended and refurbished, is now larger and more prominent than many of its minor departments. It gets pride of place in the main entrance hall to the museum and is laid out



Blue Egyptian cat replica, £7.50 from the British Museum shop

on two floors. Any bigger and the predictions of Saatchi's irritating advertising campaign for the V & A will come true: "An ace shop, with quite a nice museum attached". New York's conspicuous consumers besiege the supermarket checkout tills here in the run up to Christmas, stocking up on quartz halogen table lights, Charles Eames armchairs, anorexic Danish

of the museum itself. Before MoMA got into its stride, the average museum shop concentrated on plaster casts of popular classic items from its collection. Or, in Britain, museum bookmarks, diaries and Victorian posies. At MoMA they got quickly into the mainstream of merchandising because so many of the items in their collection are mass produced.

Dealing with industrial design put the museum in a dilemma. On the one hand it wanted to show that mass produced every day objects, stripped of the mystique of art or history, were in themselves worthy of study. But at the same time, by putting these artefacts into a museum they transformed them into something else. If you put a television set behind glass, defend it with a warder and put a label next to it, then it is going to look like art.

What is the appropriate response to buying a desk lamp, for example, that is in a museum collection? Should you handle it only with gloves, and lock it away in a climate-controlled vault like a Picasso drawing?

Manufacturers, predictably, have no such qualms. They were delighted to discover that applying the magic words "Collective for the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art" to the labels had a potent effect on their sales. It was transferring a little of the gloss of museum prestige, in fact. This wasn't a case of buying a replica - you could actually go out and get the "real thing". In America, however, the phenomenon has got so far out of hand that in the MoMA galleries you can now find notices cautioning the public against buying the so-called "museum watch" which, it says, has no connection with MoMA. The implication presumably being why not buy the real thing from our shop downstairs?

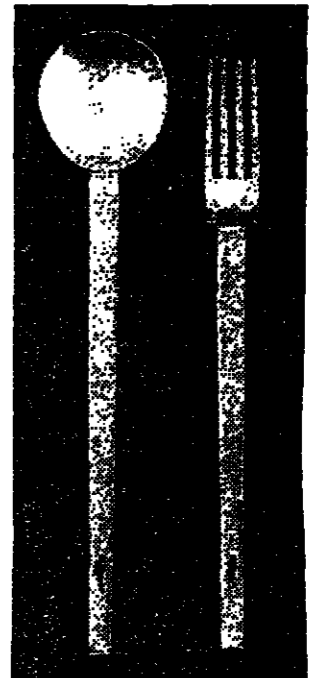
Britain, of course, is still a long way behind the sophisticated marketing of the Americans. But it is rapidly trying to catch up. Perhaps the most enterprising of Britain's museums has been the V & A, which, in the wake of Strong's departure, has moved closer to Habitat than Laura Ashley. In August Sir Terence Conran - who is one of the museum's trustees - launched the Habitat range of wallpapers and fabrics based on Arts and Crafts designs from the V & A's archives. For every metre of fabric, yard of wallpaper, or pillowcase sold, the V & A gets the royalty. From Habitat's point of view the scheme has

been a notable commercial success: its best-selling wallpaper is now a V & A pattern.

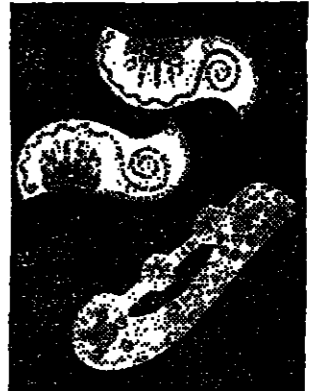
The V & A is also one of the best-organized of British museums at getting the public into its shop, in the most efficient way possible. They went as far as hiring the high street design specialist David Davies, who used his experience with the Next chain to lay it out. It shares a prominent position on the V & A's ground floor with a Crafts Council shop.

The British Museum, on the other hand, is only just beginning to take its sales potential seriously. Its turnover is just a fraction of the Metropolitan's, even though its collection is in many ways more impressive. Sales are concentrated on a few familiar lines, mainly reproductions of exhibits, including the celebrated Lewis Chessmen, Egyptian cats and an engaging range of hippos. Without the back-up of the Americans, the BM is still a touch amateurish.

The Royal Academy, without a permanent collection, and much more tuned in to the needs of commerce, has been rather more imaginative about coming up with its own



Cutlery based on a Charles Rennie Mackintosh design, £105 per set from the British Museum



Hand painted wooden jewellery, brooch £27.60, earrings £71.25, from a range by Annie Sherburne at the Crafts Council shop within the Victoria & Albert Museum

Photographs by DAVID BANKS

wares to sell. A string of prominent academicians has been signed up to produce objects for the RA shop. There are RA labelled wines, cards, T-shirts. In fact the RA was getting so successful at this kind of thing that its marketing genius was lured away to repeat the trick for Lord Montagu's quango, English Heritage.



WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 16

WADSET

(c) The Scottish for a mortgage, or something pledged or pawned, also as a verb to mortgage, probably from the Old English to *wæddan settan* to set to pledge

BENNE

(c) Sesame, the plant *Sesamum indicum*, from Meind (Sierra Leone) bene "The negroes use it as food either raw, toasted, or boiled in their soups and are very fond of it; they call it benne."

OBANG

(b) A gold coin formerly

current in Japan, of an oblong form rounded at the corners, and equal in value to 10 kobang, from the Japanese *obang* great + *ban* sheet: "The next in size to this unwieldy coin is the Japanese obang, which weighs rather more than two ounces and a half, about equal to 10 English sovereigns."

HEADS-UP

(c) American slang for clever, alert, shrewd: "They're playing real heads-up football"; as an interjection it is a warning of danger or the need to be alert: "Heads up, folks, here comes the old editor."

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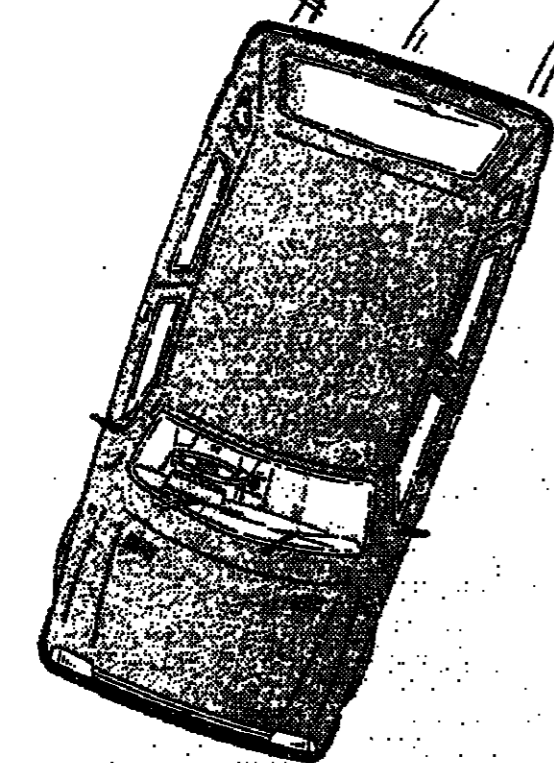
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11.9% APR			
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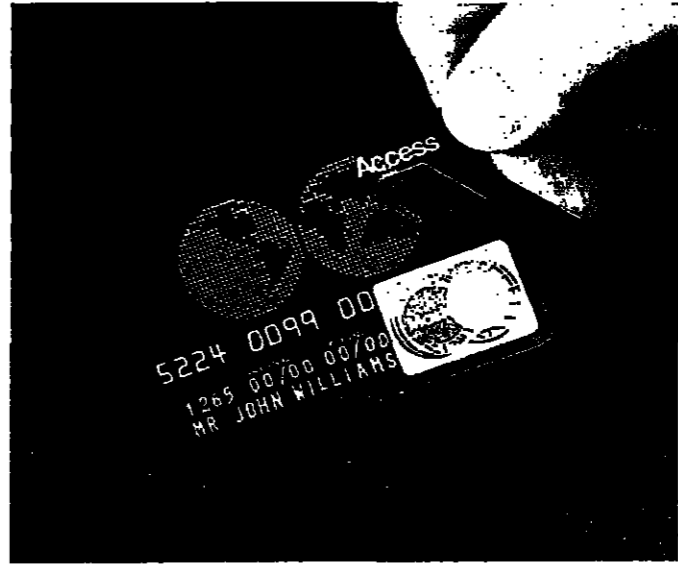
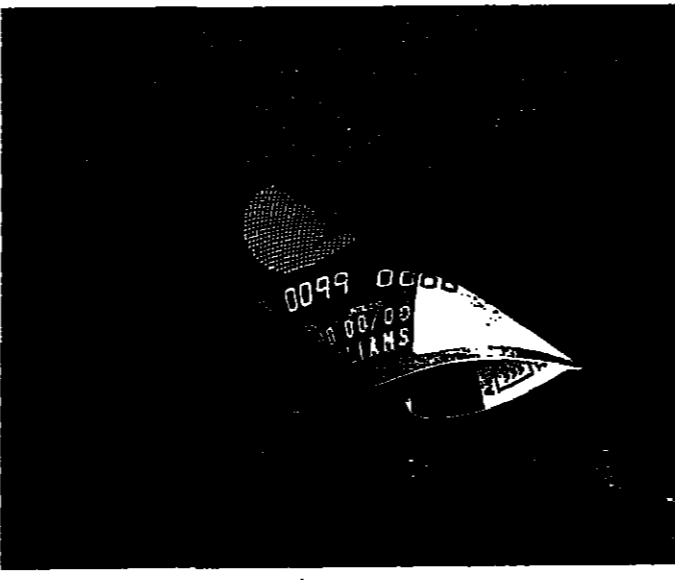
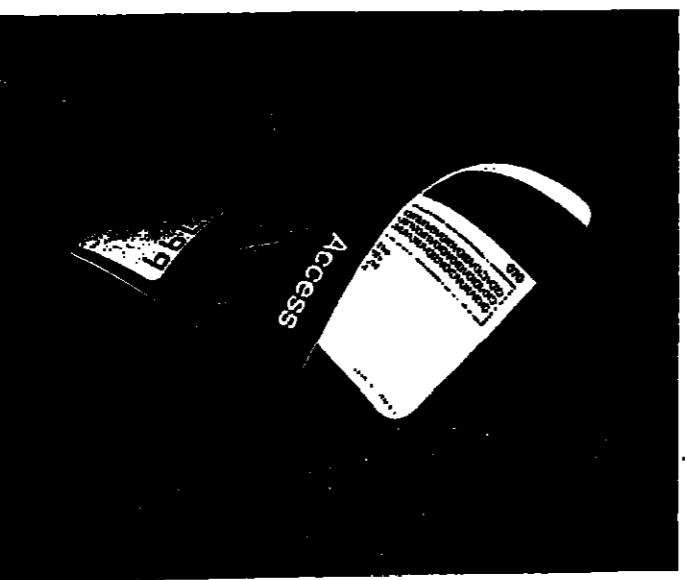
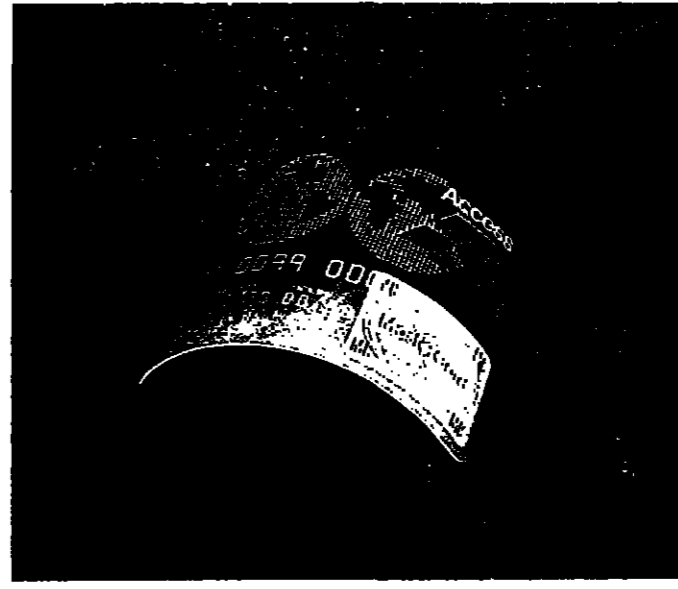
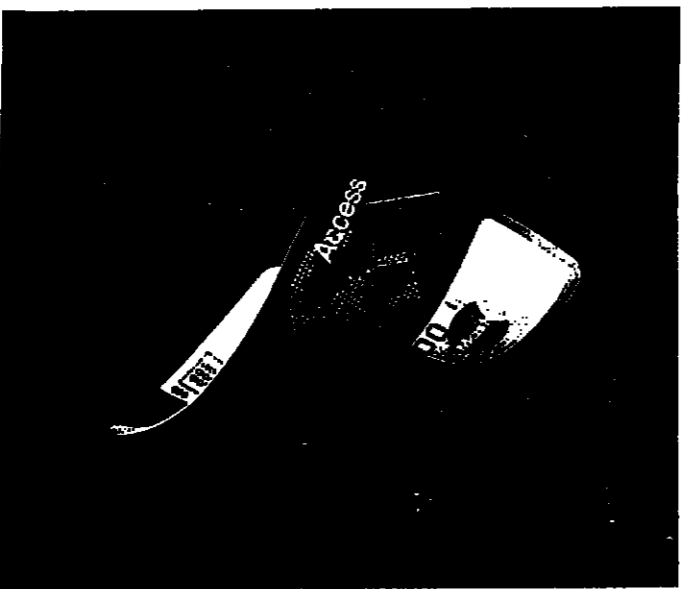
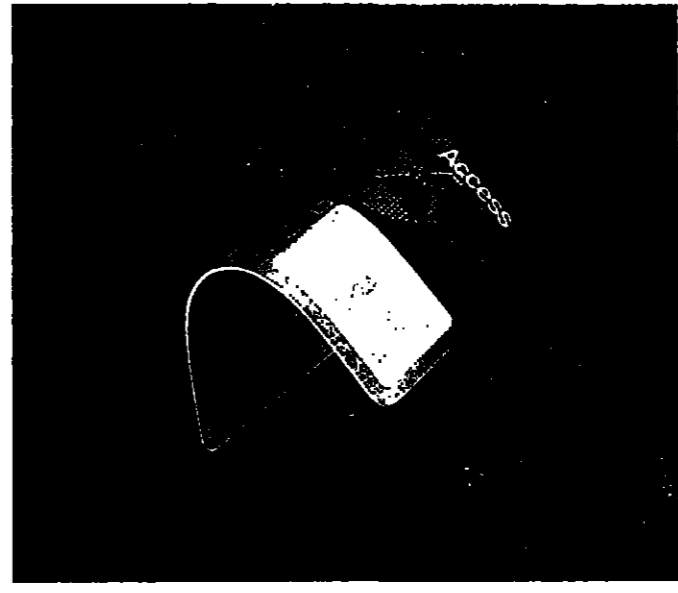
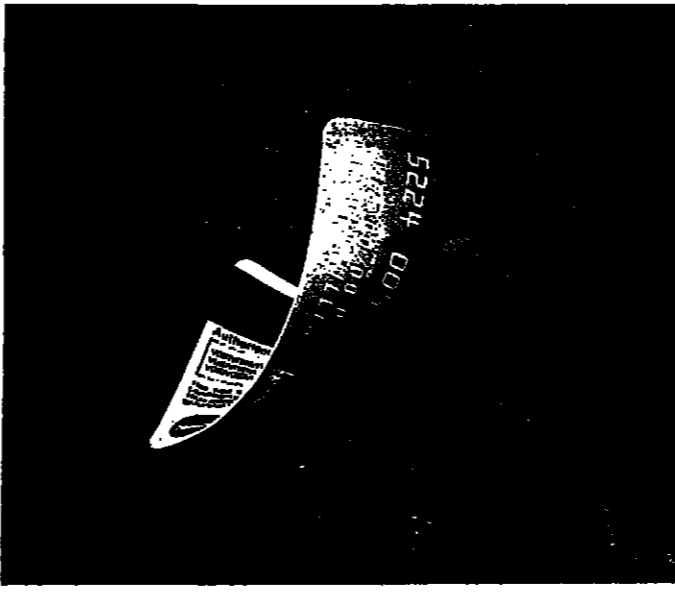
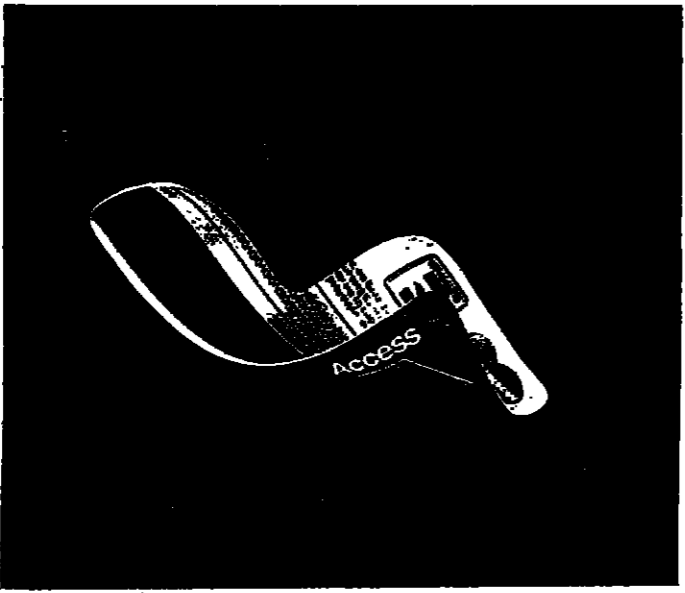
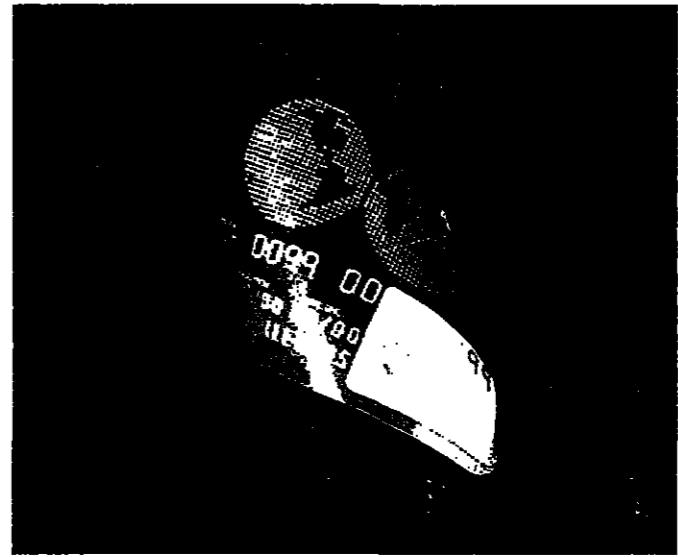
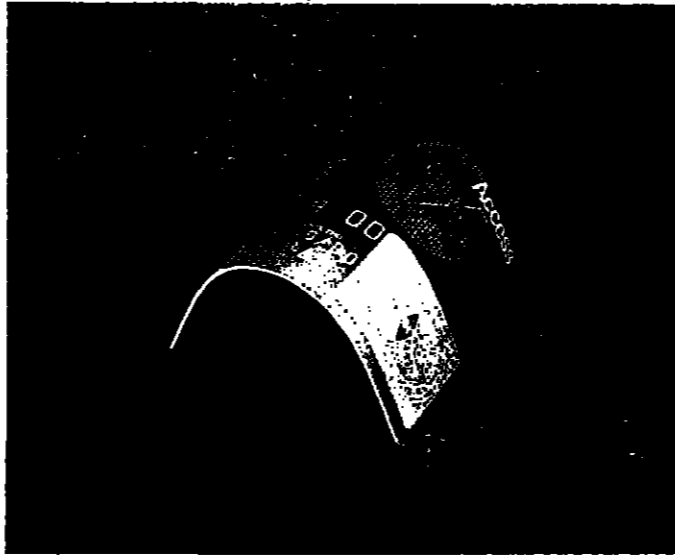
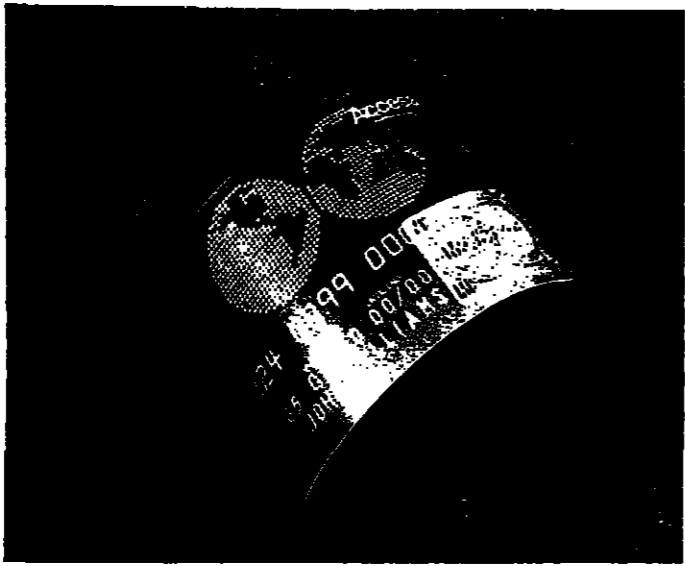
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SATURDAY DECEMBER 3 1988

PETER PAN'S WISHING WALL

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GRAHAM WOOD



Edmund Caswell and his mural, which will be unveiled next Tuesday at the Hospital For Sick Children: "Our society only sees finished work, and has no conception of the processes of change, evolution and experiment that follow the first mark on the wall."

The boy was sick, thin, pale. He came down the corridor slowly. He was propping up, or perhaps being propped by, a wheeled rack from which hung a drip, the tube running to his arm. He stood by the artist. "Want any help?" he said, after a moment or two. "I can draw birds." Given a brush, he did so. Then: "That's a heron. I've got a book on birds. I'll come back tomorrow, make it right." And he did.

"His name was Tim, that's all I know," the artist said. "He'd be 20 now. If he didn't die. I hope he'll be there when they start passing the champagne next Tuesday. Without him, I'm not sure this would have been finished. In all the world at that time, he seemed the only person with eyes to see."

The champagne will be poured at the Hospital For Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, when Lady Callaghan of Cardiff unveils a remarkable work of art, a mural 72ft by 8ft, peopled with more than 400 figures telling in startling and vigorous detail that marvellous tale of Peter Pan.

Edmund Caswell began the mural eight years ago. To complete it he has had to overcome personal crises, such as when the roof came off his home and when the bottom fell out of his overdraft, his own serious sickness, and strands of wounding opposition — some touching upon the bizarre — from within one of the world's most famous places of healing.

More specifically, he has worked through the night (8pm to 8am on weekdays; 8pm to noon at weekends) for the past 11 months to complete it. "An obsession? Yes, of course, in the end," he admits. "This is a celebration of the most famous children's story, in the place most connected with the memory of its author, Sir James Barrie. A year's sleep is no great sacrifice to bring it to the stage where you can all can now stand back and judge."

In her speech on Tuesday, Lady Callaghan will undoubtedly touch on the serendipity of his timing: as Caswell's brush flicked in the final details of Tinker Bell's wings, the House of Lords was nodding through an amendment to the Copyright, Design and Patent Bill. Instead of ending at the fiftieth anniversary of Barrie's death, royalties on the Peter Pan story in all its forms will continue to flow to Great Ormond Street. So now there is a Peter Pan

BRIAN JAMES
AT GREAT ORMOND STREET



Eight years ago a painter started a mural at J.M. Barrie's favourite hospital; and like Barrie's most famous character, he fought some strange battles along the way

Wall to stand alongside that Peter Pan Ward and Peter Pan Canteen which had been in part paid for by a half-century of income from Barrie's bequest. And very possibly listening to Lady Callaghan will be the senior member of the medical staff who recently hissed to Caswell: "If Barrie were alive today, we would never allow him to set foot inside the hospital."

For what Caswell had done, as he threw his magic shapes on to that institutional emulsion, was to bring foaming to the surface the phobic suspicions about the true nature of one of this century's greatest children's writers.

"He's another Peter Pan himself," Caswell's wife says. "An innocent. An unworried man. And so unprepared for some of things lying in wait when he started out on this."

Now aged 50, Caswell was born in India, to a military-

civil service family. He was brought to Britain at seven, went to school in Coventry, and won a junior art scholarship, but abandoned the easel for a greater love, horses.

He farmed for a while, before leaving to paint scenery and empty the ashtrays at the old Coventry Theatre. Joined the Royal Artillery for six years to again work with horses, while studying for the priesthood. Abandoned the cloth when he found that celibacy lacked appeal, but that decorating the hall for the Officer's Ball was compulsive.

He expects you to gather from all this that he was not a young man filled with a sense of mission. A failed marriage and several careers later he decided, at 38, to tackle art seriously and enrolled as a student at Middlesex Poly-

technic. His first-year task was to paint a mural on 30ft of wall in a west London geriatric hospital: it was a turning point.

"I chose Carnival as my subject. Filled the wall with beautiful people. The effect on those old dears was astonishing. Suddenly everyone was smacking on the cosmetics: old ladies who hadn't looked up in months began getting their hair done. They identified: you know, 'Dearie, that one there... that's how I used to look,' they'd tell me. Nurses said that some of them, dying, clung on six months just to see it finished. I knew then what I wanted to do."

The chance came via the Yellow Pages. Penny Uppichard, public relations officer at Great Ormond Street, knew that parents with sick, fretful children often spent dragging hours waiting

in the corridor outside the hospital pharmacy. "I thought perhaps a mural would cheer things up," she says. "I opened the book at Arts Schools and stuck in my finger. I wasn't too clear what we wanted. Perhaps the sort of rough, colourful drawing they do with white-wash brushes on boardings around building sites. Might take a morning or two. Now, eight years later... but so worth waiting for."

When Middlesex Poly told Caswell what they had in mind for his second-year project, he nearly took off and flew about like Tinker Bell.

"This was perfect! Maybe they thought they were going to get a few Disney animals. But in this place it had to be Barrie. I knew Peter Pan, you see. Margaret Lockwood had done the play when I was at Coventry. I was word-perfect in Peter's part. I loved that story. Was there ever going to be a better place to draw it? I was so up on this..."

It was three months later that the first down came. Sketching in a frenzy, Caswell had produced in terracotta chalk a life-size cartoon for the proposed work. The hospital invited department heads, administrators and governors to watch him pin his sketch to the wall. Uppichard: "You'd think I'd pinned up the 'Rape of the Sabine Women,'" Caswell says. "Or worse. The hall was full of quivering pointed fingers. I was attacked on all sides. To capture the flow and rhythm I intended, I'd drawn bodies. Unclothed. I tried to explain that I didn't draw jackets with heads on, that the mural would grow on the wall, that the clothing was a detail that would emerge. But some people could see nothing but the nakedness."

To calm things down, the hospital suggested he "wrote something... just to explain." "I wouldn't do that. A few sentences to try to explain what art was about? Too patronizing. Anyway, it wouldn't cope with the anger I now felt. Instead I wrote my poem. His Tim is in the poem, like this:

He stands before me, drip on stand, making suggestions... And offers help, if that's OK... He very soon begins to wilt, and leaves... His drip is at a tilt... Back tomorrow with a book on birds... He waves... and I think that, at last... I'm heard"

So is the doctor who came quivering with rage to Caswell. And pointed: "I demand to know... what is that man doing with that boy?"

His voice is throttled as he waffles and queries Pirate holding boys at bay 'what are they doing what deeds pursuing this mural cannot stay! I won't stand it, I'll unhand The Governing Body will hear today...'

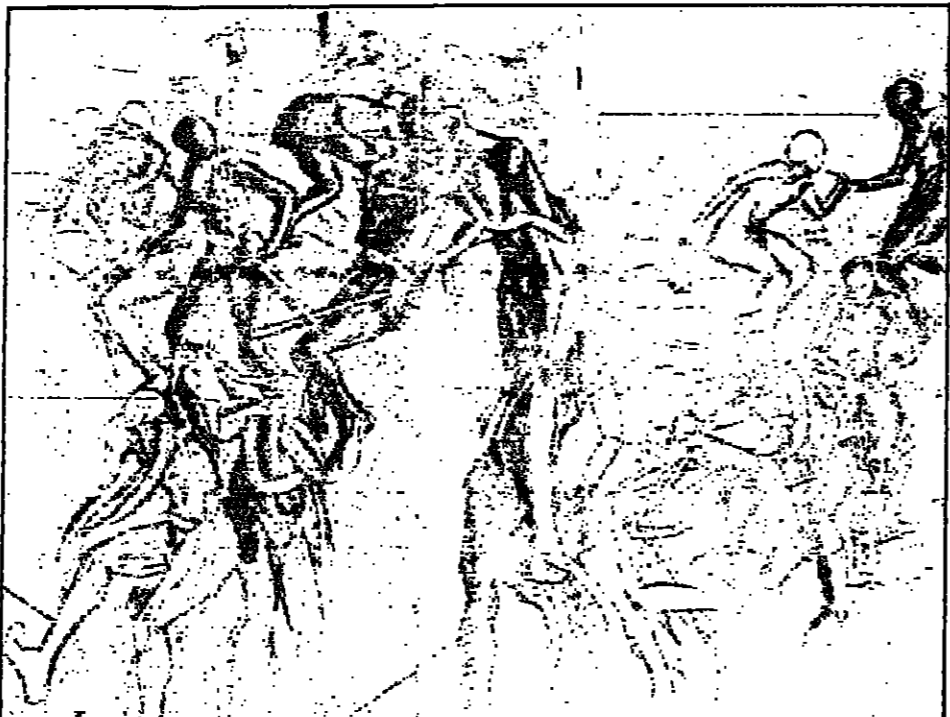
"I think," Caswell says, "he was from the psychiatric department. I wonder who treats him? But he wasn't alone in trying to look into the mural as it grew for evidence of some filth. As though I was creating a memorial to paedophilia instead of a celebration of one of the most exciting children's tales ever written."

That poem was later fixed to the wall: some staff even established a weird sort of recognition by claiming


authorship for the remarks that so wounded Caswell. "Oh, look," they'd trill. "See 'Picasso gone wrong' or 'Mere graffiti? That was me!' But fewer were anxious to give tongue to the "pederastic view" that Caswell's boom indicted.

What the brushes of Edmund Caswell, the eternal innocent, had uncovered were dormant doubts about Barrie himself. A book and a tele-

Continued overleaf



A detail from Edmund Caswell's original chalk cartoon made eight years ago... a full-size sketch to indicate the incidents he intended to portray and the characters he would include. His chalk-lines concentrated on the physiology, as a guide for the posture, position and movement of his later-to-be-clothed cast: too many, however, saw in these outlines no more than writhing nudes.




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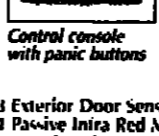




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PETER PAN'S WISHING WALL



Continued from previous page

vision series in the Seventies had provoked intense discussion about the true nature of the Scots playwright, a strange inverted character who scarce grew above a child in stature and who so adored childhood that he declared: "Nothing that happens in life after the age of 12 matters very much."

Caswell says now: "I was shaken, bewildered by such reactions. I would come in and find people standing in front of the mural, trying to work out if I'd drawn someone groping Wendy. For a long time I was inhibited. Tim helped. We have a society that goes to the theatre, the galleries, watches TV and only ever sees finished work, and thus has no conception of the processes of change, evolution and experiment that follow the first mark you make on the wall. Even Tim's heron is now a flamingo."

The misunderstandings have not been all on one side. Caswell, lunging at his wall to remove a whole range of mountains he had decided after a year served no purpose, would not easily see into the minds of scurrying administrators arguing over ward closures, nor understand why doctors, preoccupied with life-and-death choices, might believe four nights' tinkering to perfect Captain Hook's sash a matter of sublime unimportance.

Thus Caswell's irritation when he discovered after one absence that his paintings trolley had been stored in some forgotten place. Thus his fury to learn that at one point developers had well-advanced plans to knock down his half-finished wall altogether. Thus his inability to comprehend the enmity of a ward sister when money was found to spotlight his wall after her demand for items of equipment had been turned down. And thus, particularly, his continuing feud with an official who wants the two doors and two windows which pierce his mural each enlarged

to speed the passing out of pharmacy tablets.

"Some people see what I am doing as some sort of frill in serious times," he observes. "Some busy people get infuriated when they see me sitting there, staring for hours; I should be up there stoching paint as though I'd been contracted to put on two coats of Dulux. And some people clearly think I'm on to a good thing, exploiting the hospital. I've had people muttering, 'Oh, he's just messing about - trying to spin it out.' They just don't know."

What they don't know is that this is literally a labour of love. Caswell was given £300 for paints eight years ago. That was all spent, and he was deep into his own pocket long before mounting debts made him cut his nights on the wall to two a week, in order that he could work - at his other crafts as book illustrator or painter and decorator - to eat.

The search for a sponsor failed (partly because that plan to pull down the wall as part of Great Ormond Street rebuilding was still alive), but £2,000 was found, doled out in £250 portions to finance this past year. "Paint alone will have cost £1,200: the drying liquid I use so that people don't ruin clothes when the hospital opens each day costs £16 a tin and goes nowhere. So, no, this has scarcely been a quick road to fortune."

As he has worked, the conviction has grown in Caswell's mind that the only perversions that can be linked with Barrie's name lie in the mind of others. "There is a very old nursing sister still about," he says. "She knew Barrie when he was a visitor here. She has told me, 'I don't care what they say. If he was a latent homosexual, then even he didn't know it. That is rather my conviction: that Barrie didn't lust after little boys, but was in love with boyhood.'"

That has always been the most charitable view of Barrie's odd, depression-dogged

Perhaps because it is a magic tale, Edmund Caswell chooses to tell his story backwards. The meeting of Wendy and Peter Pan, when he enters in search of his shadow, takes place in the Nursery at the extreme right lower corner of the mural. The tale then unfolds (right to left along the top of the wall) with the encounter with the Crocodile, the adventure when Peter routs the Wolf, the meeting with Mermaids at the end of the rainbow: and then on (along the foot of the wall, left to right) to the rescue of the Indian Maiden, via the capture of the Lost Boys by the Pirates to the fight upon the Jolly Roger and the despatch of Captain Hook into the jaws of the Crocodile. And then the triumphant return of Wendy and the Boys to the Darling household. Below: the tense and sombre depiction of the Boys' underground hiding place as the evil C'p'n Hook steals in to poison Peter's medicine - and set the scene for All Who Believe In Fairies to save Tinker Bell by clapping their hands.

life, the waymarks of which have been plainly plotted. The death at 13 of an elder brother, David, in a skating accident, drew a brooding family in upon itself. The six-year-old James became some sort of symbol of lost childhood for his mother, and his own "not growing up" a device to assuage her loss.

But it was his later friendship with the sons of his friends Arthur and Sylvia Lewelyn Davies which provided Barrie with all his most creative and most tragic days, and his biographers with their richest seams. The Davieses then had three sons, George, Jack and Peter; Michael and Nicholas would later be added to their family and to Barrie's circle of enthralled listeners.

For the taciturn little Scot was at ease only with the young, and wandering with the boys in Kensington Gardens he would invent and embroider tales of fairies and castaways, pirates and demons. And they in turn began to be woven into his fantasies. Peter Davies was the clear model for Peter Pan (and would in later life, before throwing himself in front of a Tube train, write bitterly of being pursued by "that terrible masterpiece"), while George figured in a Barrie novel about a bachelor who meets a boy while walking in the park and conceives a scheme for them to enter a permanent neverland together.

This is the stuff of both dreams and diagnoses. Yet Nicholas, writing in late adulthood, would insist: "I say for



certain that I who lived with him on and off for more than 20 years - alone for five of those years - never heard one word, saw one glimmer of anything approaching homosexuality or paedophilia. He was an innocent, which is why he could write Peter Pan." Which James Matthew Barrie had done, to instant success, in 1904.

Between 1907 and 1909, both Arthur and Sylvia Davies died of cancer. Barrie, now divorced from his own childhood's marriage, became the boys' guardian. His favourite was clearly George, who was killed in Flanders in 1914. Barrie's deepest affection was distilled now in favour of Michael, about whom he became embarrassingly pos-

sessive. Michael drowned, at 20, in 1920.

Much of the energy of Barrie's remaining life was bent towards Great Ormond Street. It was he who took the current cast of the play, including Sir Gerald du Maurier, Marie Lohr and Mary Casson, to perform scenes in the wards. Few subsequent productions have not followed the precedent: the Captains Hook who have stalked Great Ormond Street include Ralph Richardson, Charles Laughton, Donald Wolfitt and Alastair Sim, while "Peter" has been Gladys Cooper, Anna Neagle, Sarah Churchill, Hayley Mills and Maggie Smith. Eight years before his death in 1937, Barrie willed every sum from Peter Pan - the play, the films, the cartoons, the books, the musical on ice - to the hospital.

Barrie was not the first literary figure to fall under Great Ormond Street's own powerful spell. It opened in 1852 against a background of a London in which of the 50,000 who died the previous year, 21,000 had not reached their tenth birthday. Yet not only did Britain have no hospital specifically for children, adult hospitals refused to admit the young on the grounds that they carried infection. No wonder Charles Dickens was moved to write his famous pamphlet, *Drooping Buds*: "What should we say of a rose-tree in which one bud of every three dropped to the soil dead? - this is not natural to roses, neither is it natural to men and women that they

should see the glaze of death upon so many of the bright eyes... think of it again. Of all the coffins made in London, more than one in three is made for a little child..."

Dickens's strident sentimentality, in pamphlets which were sold, in his novels which gave walk-on parts to the institution, in Public Readings that he gave, helped save Great Ormond Street from early bankruptcy, and established a tradition of patronage that Barrie much encouraged and others have manifestly taken up.

The Sick Children's Hospital is currently in the midst of the Wishing Well appeal for £42 million, with which it will rebuild much of the structure where 1,650 staff annually care for 9,000 in-patients and treat 70,000 out-patients, many brought with intractable illnesses from the world's most distant corners.

To urge the money-making along, the Princess of Wales has played tennis for the cause, Frank Bruno has sparred, Sharron Davies swum, Seb Coe run, Red Arrows soared, Marines absailed, Boy George sipped, Jeffrey Archer told jokes and hundreds endured them, and the fit and the fat in their thousands puffed marathon distances.

So successful, indeed, have the tin-rattlers of Great Ormond Street become that other children's hospitals have been heard to mutter darkly that the Wishing Well was soaking up the funds upon which they, too, depended (putting up an appeal poster right across the street from Manchester's own children's department certainly was a shade tactless). The WW responded by offering to share with children's units in Birmingham, Glasgow and Manchester the money collected from those areas.

Great Ormond Street's special cachet is also why Lady Callaghan, as chairman of the Special Trustees (who are

charged with the spending of all endowment, non-NHS funds), found a ready listener when she went home "muttering gloomily" about the fact that the Barrie funds were about to dry up, with the ending at the fiftieth anniversary of his death of the obligation under copyright to subvent the hospital.

Ex-prime ministers, she asked her husband, surely had a little clout still? "I said I'd ask around," Lord Callaghan remembers, "and see what I could do. For a cause like this... and actually, everybody was absolutely ready to help." Indeed. Prompted by a suggestion in a letter to *The Times*, the Government's own lawyers drafted the amendment to permit Great Ormond Street to retain the right to royalties, though losing the right to forbid exploitation of Barrie's work. And, save for one ignoble lord who wondered if this was not setting a precedent (and found himself accused of being like a nasty schoolboy who refused to clap hands to save the life of Tinker Bell), the amendment slid through to Royal Assent.

It is not mere "fashion", the hospital insists, that accounts for all this. "We have been here for over 120 years, which has established an ethos," Lady Callaghan says. "And now, as then, we are doing things right on the edge of medicine. A couple brought us a child whom we could not save. Yet since then they alone have raised over £200,000. D'you see?"

Such awareness informs Edmund Caswell, too. When the griping was wearing him down, slowing his arm, his wife would remind him in jest that Michelangelo had finished the Sistine Chapel under the burden of daily harassment from Pope Julius II. That helped. But what helped more was his belief that this boldly executed Peter Pan, seen bravely vanquishing Captain Hook, crocodile and fear, will fill the eye and minds of children waiting to discover whether pills and syrups can vanquish their own pain.



A touch of Lime

OUT & ABOUT

WEATHER



Longleat in Wiltshire: a house fit for an enormously rich and influential self-made courtier, classical in its four-square symmetry and avant-garde detailing

Don't mention the lions

I have not seen the lions of Longleat, and that's fine by me. At this time of year England's first and most famous Safari Park is closed. So are the Adventure Castle, the Railway, the Maze...

After the tourists have tired of wildlife and the crowds thin, Nigel Andrew visits Longleat - at the best time of year

ries. This is the sort of effortless immemorial grandeur we expect of the English stately home, and seldom find in quite such concentrated form.

present house is a third rebuilding: the builder had the builders in for an unconscionable long time. But he entered into the spirit of the thing, and was probably the brains behind the design...

owner and his family. He has provided plenty for them to gurgle over here, covering every flat surface with family snapshots and leaving personal mementoes "casually" lying about everywhere.

Outlook, very changeable

Andro Linklater peers into a world of occluded fronts and discovers some storm showers on the horizon

As Copernicus is to astronomy and Boscawen to the googly, so is Bergeron Bjerknes to meteorology. It was he, starting out of a window of the Bergen meteorological office in the 1920s...

The problem is particularly acute because the Met Office is to be floated off as an independent agency in 1990. Negotiations are under way with the private forecasters to see whether they will agree to pay a charge for information...

For many years, all weather information in the United Kingdom was supplied by the Meteorological Office, and if you did not trust its "sunny intervals with the possibility of showers"...



The weatherman: McCaskill

It is not enough for a prediction to be accurate... indeed, an audience survey has established that no more than 20 per cent of the information given is understood by the audience.

It seems that national prejudices are to be found even in the world of meteorology. It cannot wholly be chance that the Met Office computer model is particularly good at predicting the fast-moving, low-pressure systems of spring and autumn...

and a taste of continental weather. And while our own Ian McCaskill frequently blames a depression over Iceland for the rain that falls here...

NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF CAGE AND AVIARY BIRDS: A record 10,000 birds, including canaries, budgerigars, foreign and British birds, are on show competing for 70 trophies...

FESTIVAL OF MARTIAL ARTS: Presented by exponent Mike Flynn, holder of 40 blackbelts in 10 martial arts - gained in Japan - with the Elite Martial Academy...

MARVELL WINTER WONDERLAND: Christmas grotto, five reindeer and plenty of festive entertainment. Marwell Zoological Park, Colton Common, Winchester, Hampshire.

RICHMOND FELLOWSHIP CRAFT FAIR: Twenty craftsmen and women selling high quality original work in a unique Edwardian house, whose interior was described by John Bateman as "one of the most distinguished and cheerful and thoughtfully coloured interiors in England"...

OUTINGS

ZOO CHECK EXHIBITION: Fifty eminent artists - including Elisabeth Frink, David Bailey, and Geoffrey Dashiwood - exhibit their work in aid of the registered charity, founded by Virginia McKenna...

THE LONDON ORIGINAL PRINT FAIR: Leading print dealers from Great Britain, Europe and the US exhibit at the Royal Academy this weekend. More than 6,000 original prints for sale...

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL: Jane Glover conducts the London Mozart players, with John Ogden and Brenda Lucas on piano, in a concert which includes Mozart's Toy Symphony...

THURSDAY CHRISTMAS PARTY: Organs, engines, gondolas plus a cabaret and licensed bar. Thurstford Collection, Thurstford, Fakenham, Norfolk (0328 77477). Today 7pm. Tickets £3.35.

COLLECTING

Fishy wishes



"An effect obtained by glazing the hard paste porcelain, which could be made very thin and shell-like, with a lustre invented by a Frenchman called Brianchon, and made with resin, various nitrates and lavender oil. Belleek acquired the patent and produced both Parian pieces and lustred porcelain, sometimes combining the two finishes in one product."

PHILLIPS IN BATH: English oils, watercolours and prints. Phillips, Son & Neale, 1 Old King Street, Bath (0225 310609). Mon, 11am. SOTHEBY'S IN OXFORDSHIRE: Paintings, furniture, carpets and silver from the estate of Henry Ford II...

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THE ARTS

Old-time music brawl

The news this week that the BBC Symphony Orchestra's principal cellist smashed his instrument in protest at a modern work gave Richard Morrison a sense of nostalgia

The remarkable thing about Timothy Hugh's singular protest at the BBC's Maida Vale studios - he smashed his cello after taking part in the premiere of a piano concerto by an obscure German composer, apparently as a comment on the composer's own "abuse" of the instruments - is that it happened in the sober, strain-laced Eighties. Far from being avant-garde, Helmut Flammer's Zeitscheit-Zeitmasse appears to have been a return to the zany happenings of the late Sixties.

Twenty years ago, no self-respecting composer would have dreamed of writing a piece without asking the violinists to bash their precious fiddles against the music stands, or the trombonists to shout mystical words about magic mushrooms through their instruments.

Flammer's work asks for a grand piano to be "prepared" with bits of string - in fact, 1988 marks the 50th anniversary of that historic moment when the American composer John Cage first wrote a work for a piano prepared with nuts, screws, rubbers and splinters of wood. So nothing too revolutionary there.

Nor is there anything new about orchestras protesting about "un-musical" new music. Schubert's great C Major Symphony was

declared unplayable by his contemporaries, and at various stages in its distinguished history the Vienna Philharmonic has refused to play music by those well-known avant-gardists Bruckner and Mahler.

Nowadays, however, there is little new music written which orchestral players can get steamed up about. After all, not even rock bands smash up their instruments in the late Eighties - well, not if their members are under 45. In the concert hall and opera house the spirit of our age is typified by Philip Glass's soporific and repetitive pieces, in which orchestral players, far from being asked to enact physical violence on their instruments, are generally confined to playing stultifying arpeggios for hundreds of bars at a time. The only psychological damage they might sustain in a Glass work, one feels, would be death through inertia.

So reading about Herr Flammer's composition, and Timothy Hugh's protest to it, seems a little like watching old news bulletins about the 1968 student riots. And the BBC management's reaction - making Hugh the subject of disciplinary proceedings - seems too po-faced. If a musician cannot smash up his own instrument, after being deeply moved by a

new music is that for every masterpiece that is discovered in the process, there are likely to be a hundred Flammers. But, to adapt a legal maxim, better to wade through a hundred Flammers than that one masterpiece should go unheard.

British orchestral players are generally rather well-behaved, on the surface. The grand gesture of the mass walk-out is more of an Italian orchestral speciality, and the best slanging matches between players and conductors happen in the rehearsal halls of New York, where the insults are said to be of a very high level of creativity.

The British form of orchestral protest is usually extremely subversive, witty in a boys' fourth-form dormitory kind of way, and absolutely shattering in its effect on any inexperienced conductor. Players insert deliberate "wrong notes" in rehearsal all the time: it is a pleasant and diverting game to

test whether the conductor is a musician or a poseur. Someone like Pierre Boulez, who conducted the BBC SO in the Seventies through some of the most complex scores ever written, would pride himself on being able to spot a single wrong note in Schoenberg at 100 yards' distance, probably while simultaneously completing *The Times* crossword.

If the composer himself is present, that adds a new and exciting dimension to the game (especially if, as seems to have been the case at Maida Vale, the conductor is a friend of the composer). As one former BBC brass player once said to me: "If [composer X] couldn't tell that the horns were playing Humpty Dumpty in the middle of his own music, what sort of composer is he?"

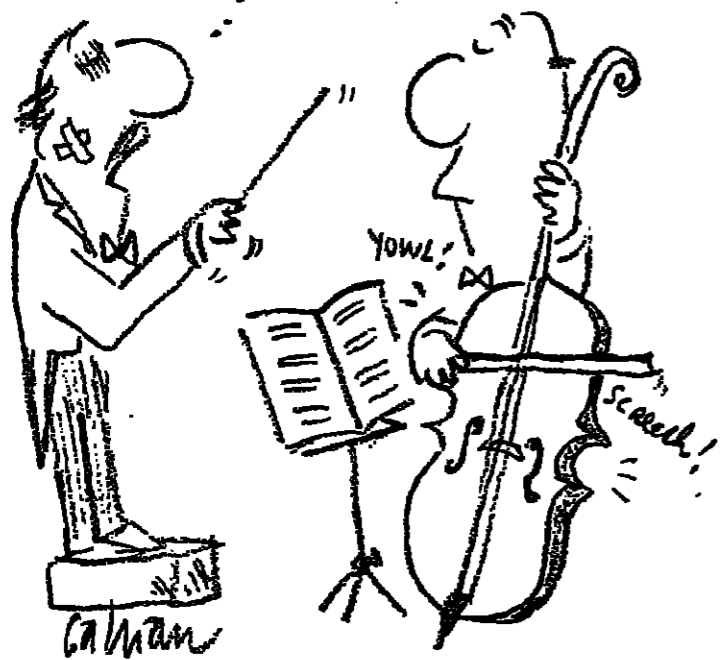
Another favourite device is the ostensibly diligent, but actually deliberately anarchic, question to the composer in rehearsal, such as: "Excuse me, but in the 49th bar after H, my third quaver is an E. Shouldn't it be E flat?"

But when it comes to performance, British orchestral players nearly always display a sanguine professionalism. The one certain way of angering them is to require them to do something which they feel might damage their instruments - and Herr Flammer seems to have done just that.

The only psychological damage musicians might sustain in a Glass work would be death through inertia

performance, what can he do? On the other hand, if the members of the BBC Symphony Orchestra are not prepared to play new music, they are in the wrong orchestra. The BBC SO plays far more than any other symphony orchestra in London. And one obvious aspect of playing mostly

Could we try it again - only this time don't break the CELLO over my head...



Acting style



Wig wham: Waltraud Meier, Rene Kollo in Parsifal

OPERA

Parsifal San Francisco

Terry McEwan, the former director general of San Francisco Opera, put together a new production of Wagner's Parsifal that was vocally most impressive, although at times conceptually and visually incoherent.

From the all-star cast that he assembled for the San Francisco Ring of 1985, McEwan invited back Rene Kollo to sing Parsifal, and Walter Berry to sing Klingsor. Kurt Moll, who seems born to sing the great Wagner basses, made his American debut here as Gurnemanz 14 years ago: he now interprets the role as well as anyone alive. Debut artists to San Francisco included Waltraud Meier from Stuttgart as Kundry (which she sang at Covent Garden last year), and Jorma Hynninen from Helsinki as Amfortas.

This cast, under Sir John Pritchard, could scarcely be faulted, even if no one else on stage achieved quite the classic Wagnerian sound of Moll. Possessed of a magnificent clarion voice, he "acts" every syllable, cutting and carving each word and each note in a way that makes poignant musical and dramatic sense.

Kollo, clothed at first in a baggy, baby-blue outfit that looked like pyjamas, and appearing not the least like an innocent young hero, came most potently into his own

after Kundry's kiss and his awakening ("Amfortas! die Wunde!") in Act Two. As the profound musical themes of the first act returned, his voice and manner grew heroic, priest-like, prophetic - a full-voiced outburst that surged on in his dispute with Kundry, and carried through his "transformation" in the ritual (and fairly static) final scene.

Despite Parsifal's victory, Kollo was no match for Meier's Kundry - even during her silent moments in the outer acts, Meier conveyed a fierce and complex understanding, even when wearing a series of multicoloured fright-wigs and lavish costumes to match. Attempting to seduce Parsifal on a gigantic bed, she pulled out notes of the most astonishing beauty and power, shaping the rise and fall of her tones into masterfully controlled waves of sound; a triumph of music, and musical performance, over show-off directorial "effects".

The highest praise I can pay Pritchard and the orchestra is that they allow one to attend with total concentration, and frequent rapture, to the exquisite sensuality and rhetorical ingenuity of Wagner's score. Nothing was mused or rushed; the uncut performance ran five hours. If the Flower Maiden seemed relatively trivial, and much of the Third Act stodgy and uninspired, the composer may be more to blame than the conductor; Wagner can over-tax the patience of even devotees.

David Littlejohn

Contest winners

The winner of *The Times* Question Time competition, published on the Spectrum pages as part of the Past World series from September 27-30, 1988, is Dr S.A. Szweda of Marks Road, Widcombe, Bath. He wins a copy of *The Vatican Frescoes of Michelangelo*, a limited edition priced at £2,500.

Harley Street, London W1; Michael Pastellas, of Higham Road, Tottenham, London N17; W.F. Garcia, of Hurst Lane, East Molesey, Surrey; T.J. Spencer, of Pelham Road, London N22; Lynne C. Ray, of Cleveland Avenue, Limeslade, Swansea; E.J. Barton, of Franklin Crescent, Doncaster.

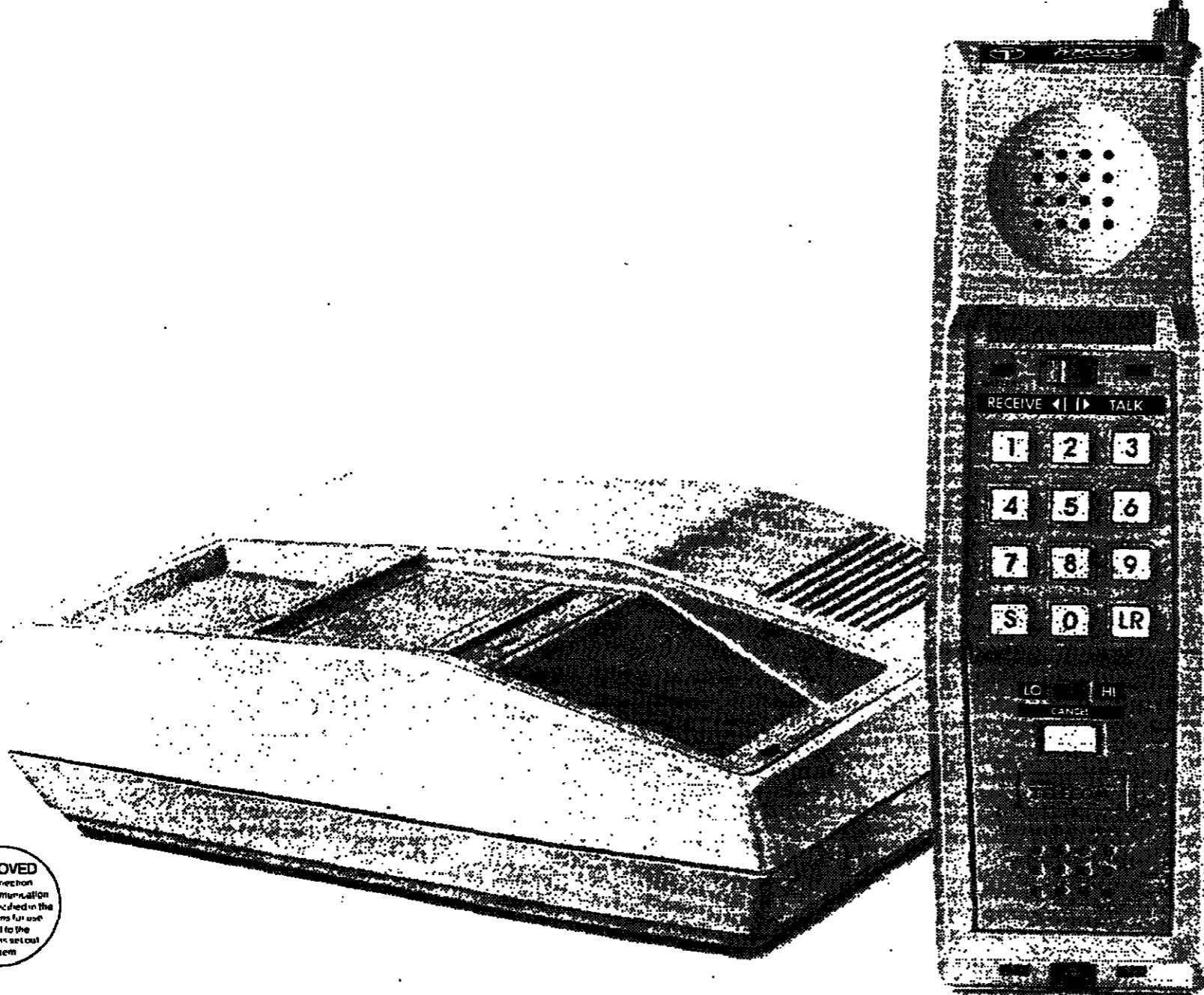
The 12 runners-up, who each win a copy of *Past Worlds: The Times Atlas of Archaeology* (£29.95), are: Martin Caley, of Ballabrooke Drive, Douglas, Isle of Man; H.F. Edwards, of Green End Lane, Fyrmere, Cullompton; Roy Harlow, of Hildersham, Cambridge; Patricia Hullis, of Pen Level, Hastings, East Sussex; P. Hopkins, of Sion Street, Trillick, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan; Diana Haley, of Abbotwood, Guildford, Surrey; S.M. Bekhit, of

Tuesday, September 27: 1. Magnetometer scan - the others are all methods of dating remains 2. All of them Wednesday, September 28: 1. China 2. Scythians Thursday, September 29: 1. Shub'ad 2. New Zealand Friday, September 30, 1988: 1. Because tin could be added to copper to make bronze, which is stronger than either 2. Writing

The winner of *The Times* Glenfiddich competition, which was published on the Spectrum page on October 28, 1988, is Mrs L.M. Smith of Ridgacre Road, Quinton, Birmingham B32 1EG. Mrs Smith's was the first correct entry drawn from the bag. She wins a £1,365 hand-cut de-

canter fitted with a silver stag's head stopper. The answers were: 1. (c) It's not Scotch 2. (a) Gaelic for water of life 3. (a) Whisky made from malted barley at one distillery 4. (b) The valley of the deer 5. (b) North Sea oil 6. (a) Good health

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THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

Treading on toes

English National Opera is spitting over London Festival Ballet's decision to re-christen itself the English National Ballet next year...

Poor pilgrims

Robert Ponsonby has quit as director of the successful Canterbury Festival, saying financial and artistic restrictions on the programme make it impossible for him to continue...

The Arts Council's designer annual report not only cost £65,000 to produce, but has now attracted criticism from Parliament. At this week's select committee...

Wing and a prayer

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has a part to play in next Saturday's British premiere of Messiaen's St Francois D'Assise...

Andrew Billen

Blue-eyed boyo, still on fire

Peter O'Toole tells Anne Billson about the good, the bad and the dodgy years



Slowing down: if O'Toole had been any prettier, Noel Coward said, it would have been Florence of Arabia

Peter O'Toole says: "So. You are from the august Times... At this point the coffee pot explodes. It could almost be a scene from High Spirits, his latest film. O'Toole plays the impoverished owner of a castle in Ireland who fakes poltergeist activity to attract American tourists..."

such as The Lion in Winter, major flops such as Lord Jim, and wacky comedies such as What's New Pussycat? David Lean told me when I was quite young always to come out of a different hole...

Dodgy included the death of his father and the break-up of his marriage to Alan Phillips. He also appeared as Tiberius in the celebrated débauch of Tinto Brass's hardcore Caligula, but this is one experience he does not regret...

A man of few words

In his latest film, Bird, Clint Eastwood does not throw much light on Charlie Parker. Forest Whitaker's award-winning performance as the great jazz man is the more remarkable for its taking place in a photographic Stygian gloom...

TELEVISION

a cinematic impression of jazz whose loose form enables it, despite much painful content, to relax more than it disturbs - just like most great jazz.

Arena's intriguingly relaxed profile of Eastwood, which bosted the appropriately contradictory title, Clint Eastwood the Man With No Name (BBC2), certainly shed much light on its subject but it was mostly the sun's. They interviewed him outside in the glare of day without a hat...

Understandably, the programme made its excuses after Eastwood talked about Bird and rushed off to interview Parker's common-law wife, Chan, and his trumpet player Red Rodney. Chan was delightfully witty and loquacious...

Andrew Hislop

ing stv



A

Boston beauty

CONCERT

Boston SO/Ozawa Festival Hall

It may not be the most ostentatiously dazzling orchestra in America, and it certainly never tries to be the loudest. But last night the Boston Symphony Orchestra won many new admirers with a performance of Mahler's Ninth Symphony...

In this respect Seiji Ozawa - now in his sixteenth season as music director in Boston - exhibited exemplary musical courage, because he seemed determined to let the symphony build unerringly in intensity towards its natural climax: the great Adagio finale, and more particularly that unique passage in which the violins left entirely exposed, must infuse a simple descent with all the urgency and passion of a man clinging on to life.

hands, this was an extraordinary moment, charged with overwhelming anguish.

So the measured emotional build-up over 80 minutes paid off. There were subtle tempo flexibilities (but never anything approaching a full-hearted rubato) and many sublime moments, and if one also felt an occasional lack of dramatic tension, Ozawa remedied that in a brilliant, furiously propelled Rondo-Burlesque. The massive contrapuntal writing was superbly delineated.

The Bostonians' playing was not flawless, but there has been no more sweetly-blended orchestra in London this year. The woodwind, in particular, have no rough edges - even the contrabassoon sounds lyrical - and the Rondo-Burlesque's notorious trumpet solo - high and pianissimo - was done with a touch of genius.

It was brave to open with Webern's tiny Five Pieces for Orchestra, Op 10 - the antithesis of a gargantuan symphony - but slightly self-defeating, because a coughing, unsettled audience did its best to obscure Ozawa's fluid, precise readings.

Richard Morrison

Queen and country

THEATRE

Single Spies Lyttelton

the spot far more strongly than that of any patriotic compatriot. In A Question of Attribution Bennett and Cullow change places as director and lead performer; and a protagonist who has come out of the closet is followed by one still firmly inside it.

The piece takes place between the discovery of Blunt's treachery and its public disclosure. He is under interrogation but still Survivor of the Queen's Pictures.

Bennett's conceit is to align scenes of photographic identification with scenes of fine art analysis: using each to illuminate the other. A discussion of Giotto's ignorance of perspective connects with Blunt's lack of political perspective in the 1930s. Lecturing on a Titian portrait, Blunt demonstrates an X-ray revealing the presence of a third man.

At work in the royal gallery, he is interrupted by the Queen ("Carry on - ignore me"), a bold

and brilliantly successful example of Bennett's command of comic propriety. Played by an impressively smiling Prunella Scales, the monarch is as guarded as on any public occasion, but in command of a marvellous flow of diplomatic ironies, which come to centre on the question of fakes: a term not exclusively applying to paintings.

The programme carries a line from Larkin - "Beyond all this the wish to be alone" - which underlies both plays.

Irving Wardle

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SALORA TV advertisement highlighting sound and vision features and prices.

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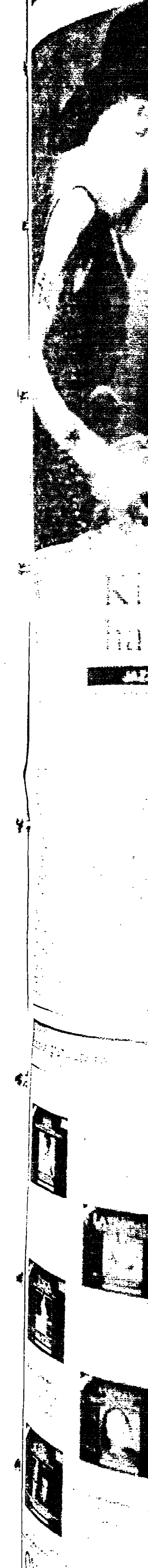
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RECORDS

A refreshing Winter



Raw sound: Winter communicates a gut-level exuberance in both his playing and singing.

Of '88 he has turned out his best album for more than a decade. Furthermore, in a week that saw a flurry of guitar-playing activity including the debut of the Canadian phenomenon Jeff Healey, British tours by Rory Gallagher and Jimmy Page, and even the exhumation of musicians such as Leslie West, Alvin Lee, Robby Krieger and Randy California on Miles Copeland's "Night of the Guitar" shows, it might even be that for once in his life Winter's timing is good. On the other hand, the choice of title leaves only four weeks before the album is relegated to the status of one of last year's things.

The quality which Winter has always possessed in abundance is the ability to communicate a raw, gut-level exuberance both in his playing and especially in his big, devil-may-care singing voice. "I make my living feeling rotten but I feel good when I play the blues," he roars on "World of Contradictions", a slow, delta blues which is the only song here written by Winter.

Unfortunately, in recent years he has been lazy and defensive in his choice of material. Like many of the performers who built careers on the musical and spiritual values of the Sixties, he emerged battered and alienated from the music business of the late Seventies. For most of the Eighties he has taken refuge in the purist bunker, turning out a series of independent-label albums of

variable quality, comprised entirely of predictable, straight-ahead, 12-bar blues. But now there is evidence of fresh thought and a major contract to boot. The recruitment of the producer Terry Manning (the engineer who produced most of ZZ Top's albums in all but name) probably has a lot to do with it. So, too, has the impetus of the Robert Cray revolution. In particular a track called "Rain", written by one Dan Daley, has a deliciously soulful, sub-Cray feel to it, although the fat, swirling guitar sound that dominates the album is still firmly rooted in post-Hendrix acid-rock.

Elmore James's "Stranger Blues" is introduced to an exotic rumba rhythm, courtesy of the drummer Tom Compton, and draws forth an awesome display of slide guitar playing from Winter. As

the number picks up momentum, the metal of the slide cuts across the top strings with a sound like that of a locomotive's wheels slicing across steel rails, while fuel is shovelled on to the engine room furnace in the shape of Compton's impeccably dropped tom tom beats.

A similarly inspired slide guitar part greases the Bo Diddley-like "Lightning", and there is something supremely exhilarating about the way in which Winter frets the sequences in the jazzy 4th-chord boogie "Ain't That Just Like a Woman", before shooting off volleys of notes which illuminate the song like bursts of tracer fire carving up the sky.

The album is not without its faults. The lyrics are of the old blues school, and as such have a tendency to sound acceptable only when they are familiar from previous incarnations. (What, for instance, would one make of the violently misogynous storyline of "Hey Joe" if it were disseminated for the first time today?) Thus, ideological niceties aside, when Winter sings the old lines: "You can buy a woman clothes/Give her money on the side/No matter what you do/She'll never be satisfied/Ain't that just like a woman?"... it sounds, if nothing else, faintly primitive.

The album cover features a singularly offputting close-up of one of Winter's proliferating collection of garish tattoos, and in many ways he is no closer to being clued-up to the fashionable mores of the modern world than is my great aunt Betty. The irony is that given the retrospectively-obscured times in which we live, if Winter were to burst on to the scene as a new, young artist playing precisely this sort of thing, he would meet few obstacles on the road to widespread success.

Witness the blues guitarist from Michigan, Michael Katon, who is no spring chicken, but whose name has not been stamped with the sell-by date of a previous era. With the release of his second album, inately titled *Proud To Be Loud!*, he has started to win cover features in the specialist music Press and is attracting good notices on his current tour (he appears tonight at The Venue, Cardiff).

While many years of playing the roadhouse bars in America has honed Katon's technique to a formidable edge, the experience has not inspired him to come up with so much as a single original phrase, nor anything more than the most standard of variations on the boogie rhythms and overloaded Stratocaster sounds that comprise the increasingly debased lingua franca of white blues guitarists the world over. There are high-energy dashes of Robin Trower ("Boogie Whip"), Billy Gibbons ("Love Stepped in My Way") and even, on "Burn Me (With Electricity)", a fair imitation of Johnny Winter's whiplash slide guitar style.

David Sinclair

ROCK
Johnny Winter: The Winter Of '88 (MCA MCF 3436)
Michael Katon: Proud To Be Loud! (Loop LOPL 503)

Few high-voltage blues guitarists have done their homework as thoroughly as Johnny Winter

Without knowing it, you hear Jean Baptiste "Toots" Thielemans everywhere, from *Sesame Street* to after-shave ads. The 66-year-old Belgian, resident in the United States since the early 1950s, has the market in hip harmonica-playing sewn up. "When I made a jingle for Old Spice," he is quoted as saying in the sleeve note to *Only Trust Your Heart*, "it only took two hours' work and it paid my rent for a year."

His latest album confirms that Thielemans, who was inspired as a boy by Django Reinhardt and befriended as a young man by Charlie Parker, is without doubt the finest jazz harmonica-player of all time. How many others not only would begin a recital with a reading of Wayne Shorter's typically off-centre tune "Speak No Evil", but could produce a version to rival the composer's original? If you have never heard Thielemans before, then this track alone will be enough to dispel any preconception that his use of the mouth-organ is a novelty.

First one notices his sound, which is solid and mature and surprisingly rich for such a puny horn. Next the sinuous grace of his phrasing makes itself apparent; his delivery may be legato, but every note hums with rhythmic vitality. Last comes the matter of his sumptuous lyrical imagination, which has a wonderful

King of the harmonica

way of glancing off the chords at unexpected angles, then turning joyful cartwheels around the melody.

He follows up his adventurous choice of the Shorter piece with versions of Thad Jones's beautifully constructed "Three and One" and a clever arrangement of one of Thelonious Monk's evocative railway portraits, "Little Rootie Tootie". Benny Carter's "Only Trust Your Heart" elicits a dazzling display of the aforementioned cartwheels, while "Hello, Young Lovers" and "We'll Be Together Again" encourage his flair for balladry, the former in particular exploiting the natural never-alone-with-a-Strand plaintiveness of his chosen instrument.

Particular admiration must be reserved for his rhythm section. The pianist Fred Hersch, the alternating bassists Marc Johnson and Harvie Swartz and the drummer Joey

Baron provide Thielemans with the sort of stimulus and cushion that a soloist must dream about. Hersch's lovely "Sarabande" is the basis for a fine harmonica-piano duet, and his "Rain Waltz" provides further confirmation of his compositional ability.

Baron, who was seen in London a few weeks ago applying his sticks to the post-modernist punk-jazz of John Zorn's group Naked City, here turns in a polished mainstream-modern performance, making an important contribution to an album that deserves an audience beyond harmonica fetishists and curiosity-seekers.

Two albums on the Kaz label continue a series devoted to recordings made by the South African pianist Dollar Brand in his native country during the 1970s, with a variety of bands featuring

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The American accent is maybe right for Hindemith's symphony of Weber, which was written when he was an exile in the United States; certainly this performance convinces with its distinctively American sorts of nostalgia and buoyancy.

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BOOKS

Life as a jumble sale

Victoria Glendinning on an earlier materialist age

In the reign of Queen Victoria, Robert Louis Stevenson wrote: "The world is so full of a number of things, I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings." There seemed to be more things in the world than ever before, and a good many of them were gathered together under the massive glass roof of the Crystal Palace for the Great Exhibition of 1851.

Asa Briggs's book is a survey of the different kinds of things that the Victorians designed, invented, named, made, advertised, bought, sold, listed, counted, and collected; things that were coveted, displayed, disregarded, thrown away. It was the age not only of the mass market but of mass production and of reproduction — moulds, punches, dyes, prints, photography, the phonograph. There were not just things but ranges of things — not just umbrella stands, for example, but all sorts of umbrella stands.

Victorian Things completes a trilogy that began with *Victorian People* (1954) and *Victorian Cities* (1963), so to some extent Lord Briggs is using up the scraps from the cutting-room floor, as well as drawing on specialized crafts books rarely studied by historians. He records an era which had a mania for recording itself: public statues, private museums, catalogues, and the Public Record Office are all Victorian things, and as soon as postage stamps were in common use, stamp collecting began.

There were so many things. That is the trouble. Lord Briggs has the same problem as the people who organized the Great Exhibition. The Prince Consort wanted to categorize all the farm machinery, turbine engines, fire-screens, dinner sets, gingerbread elephants, rolls of wallpaper, table-lighters, and knitting-machines, not to mention the garden bench carved from coal,

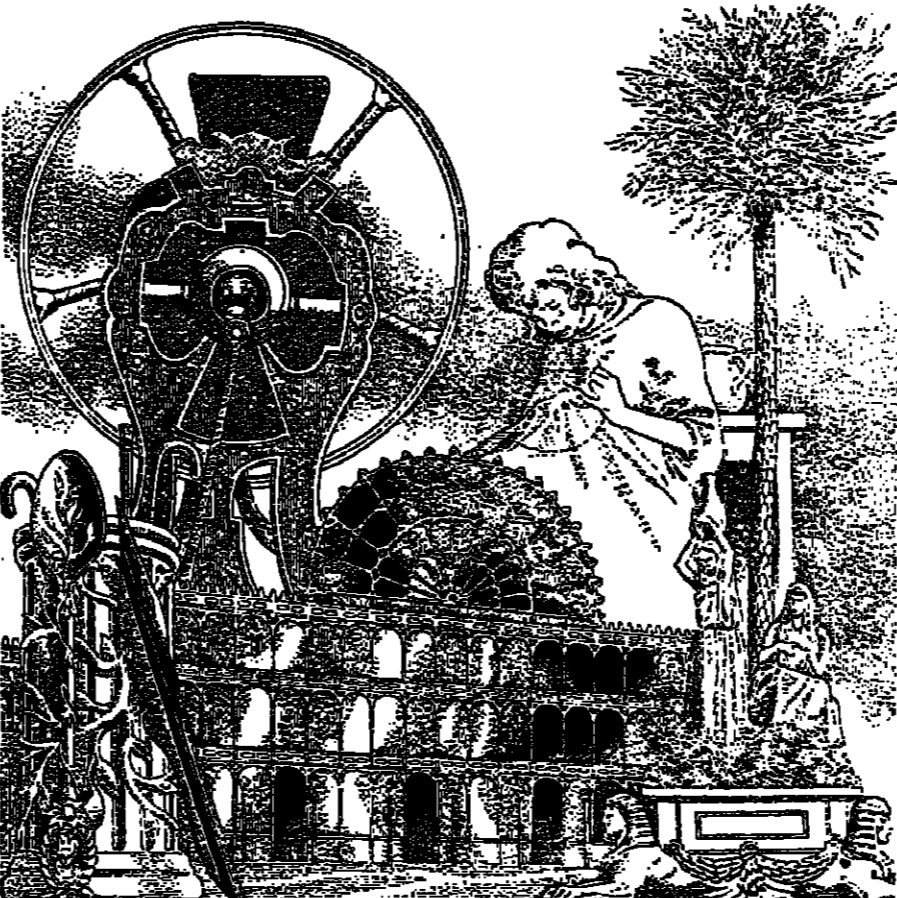
the papier mâché piano and the "bachelor's shirt of peculiar construction, without buttons", according to some meaningful philosophical principle. Philosophy, as Lord Briggs remarks, has always been puzzled by the slippery word "thing".

Just as the Prince Consort's colleagues shied away from the philosophical approach in favour of a common-sense, practical kind of classification, so Lord Briggs, in his distaste for making elaborate connections between things, or creating unreal categories, steers clear of almost all theorizing. His aim is to reconstruct "the intelligible universe", or that part of it which is retrievable; in 1900 only 17 per cent of the population left enough property to be worth recording. He writes about processes as well as products, resources as well as artefacts. He can't fit everything in; since most Victorians died at home, we might have had something about

VICTORIAN THINGS
By Asa Briggs
Basingstoke, £19.95

sick-room equipment — and coffins. The universe, seen as a jumble sale, remains unintelligible, but along the way there are flashes of illuminating information. It becomes obvious, for example, why there are so many fogs, phantoms and lost children in Victorian novels. No one could see properly. Spectacles were not made to an individual prescription. If you were poor you bought a likely pair off a market stall, and if you were rich you sent off for a selection to choose from, stating your age, which was the only relevant variable. Science and art, and science and magic, had not yet parted company.

Steel pen-nibs, instead of quills, were available from the 1830s; safety pins, one of the great simple inventions, came in 1849; but matches, in Herbert Spencer's view, were "the great boon to mankind in the 19th century". Millions of poor people subsisted



ROBIN JACQUES

by making and selling matches. But the matchmakers died of "phosphy jaw" — phosphorus necrosis — and it was sweated labour. Fifty million sewing needles a week were made in Redditch alone in the mid-century; the needle-makers suffered from "grinder's asthma", but refused to wear protective masks. The maker of Victorian things, on the evidence of this book, was always conservative, resenting any suggestion that he should change his habits; and the maker of Victorian things threatens to take over, in Lord Briggs's narrative, from the things themselves.

At the time, it was the things that threatened to take over. Moralists warned against rampant materialism. There was a steady stream of books and manuals instructing people how to live with all the new things they acquired — "hints" on household management, interior decoration, etiquette. By the end of the Queen's reign, those objects

included the telegraph, the telephone, gas-cookers ("kitcheners"), electric light bulbs, bicycles and motor cars.

There are so many unasked, unanswered questions. Why were Tory politicians and Nonconformist dissenters immortalized on Staffordshire pottery figures, but not Whigs or Church of England clergymen? Why was Dickens's face woven into a silk book-marker, but not Tennyson's? Why did previously colourful men's clothes "go dark" in the middle of the century, and remain black, brown, and grey thenceforth? Why did drawers come into use for middle-class women at about the same time? (Working women were knickerless until the 1880s.) Why did everyone — even beggars — still wear hats, even though in 1845 the hat had been picked out as "one of the strangest vestigial anomalies of the nineteenth century"? Charles Lamb wrote of "things in book's clothing". *Victorian Things*, fascinating though it is, is that kind of thing.

Sing a song from the index

Should you ever need to know the difference between Christ from the Post Office and Lili from the Ballet then Gänzl's Book of the Musical Theatre, by Kurt Gänzl and Andrew Lamb (The Bodley Head, £30) is one of the few reference works around that will provide an immediate answer. Christ makes her entrance in Zeller's *Der Vogelhändler*, an opera which still turns up quite regularly in Austria, telling us in "Ich bin die Christel von der Post" that not everyone gets a kiss with the mail. Lili, in Leo Fall's *Die Rose von Stambul*, may claim to be a dancer in "Ich bin die Lili vom Ballett", but is given away by a bristling moustache.



There they are, side by side in the massive index of song titles, almost 60 pages of them, at the end of a guide to opera that is as comprehensive as could ever be hoped for. It is the successor to Mark Lubbock's *The Complete Book of Light Opera*, which has been difficult to track down these many years. But Gänzl, with almost half as many pages again as Lubbock, takes on new areas such as recordings and those song titles.

In 1964 Brigit Brophy upset some of the musicological world with *Mozart the Dramatist*. It was considered a mite sacrilegious to put the da Ponte operas plus *The Magic Flute* in a literary and often a Freudian context. Indeed there was tut-tutting about a non-musician tacking Mozart at all. But others recognized that Miss Brophy had produced some ideas which were far more interesting than textual squabbling.

For the new edition, Mozart *The Dramatist, The Value of his Operas to Him, to his Age, and to Us* (Libris, £17.50), Miss Brophy

has added a preface dealing with *Idomeneo* and *La clemenza di Tito*, works none too familiar in the early Sixties. Here she is back with her old themes of the influence of the Freemasons and Mozart's relationship with his father, Leopold.

Less worthwhile — or necessary — is an appendix attacking the views of a Professor Chailley on *The Flute*. In between, those Sixties fireworks still fizz.

Verdians could well be enticed to shell out the £65 needed for Hans Busch's massive assemblage of the letters and documents concerning Otello and the revised version of Simon Boccanegra (Oxford, two vols, £65). As might be expected from the son of Fritz Busch, who did much to encourage Glyndebourne into Verdi, the scholarship is scrupulous. Vol II devotes close on 200 pages to the production book of *Otello*, including the most detailed placement of everything and everybody on stage.

Alternatively, turn for relief to The Music Lover's *Literary Companions*, compiled by Dannie and Joan Abse (Robson Books, £14.95). It contains some tasty pages from both musicians and non-musicians, with some pretty juxtaposition: Berlioz whining (as he all too often did) in a letter to Franz Liszt is followed by a Roald Dahl short story about a bonfire, a cat, and Franz Liszt. And there is Mark Twain, the journalist, at Bayreuth writing that "in this remote village... it is always Sunday." A few pages earlier Tolstoy rubbishes Siegfried, complaining that it would perplex the noble Russian peasant. Unsound chap musically, Tolstoy, once he got past the Kreutzer Sonata.

John Higgins

On the district line

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

FICTION

- A Sport of Nature*, by Nadine Gordimer (Penguin, £4.99) Forty years of South African experience, as lively, sexy white girl is transformed into political activist, intent on returning the whole African continent to the rule of Africans.
 - Chinese Whispers*, by Maurice Leitch (Arena, £2.50) Clever little novella as group in mental hospital play the spooky game revealing how thin the line between sanity and madness.
 - Death to the Landlords*, by Ellis Peters (Headline, £2.99) The creator of Brother Cadfael in her other turban, unravelling deadly Indian rope trick of hatred and murder in contemporary India.
 - Nights at the Alexandra*, by William Trevor (Arena, £2.50) Nostalgic but earthy novella of wartime in provincial Ireland, a beautiful German woman, and the cinema built in her honour.
 - The Lively Dead*, by Peter Dickinson (Arrow, £2.50) Something smells fishy in Notting Hill, and it is not just the tourists down the Portobello Road, but a body in the garden, blackmail, instigation of spies, and maybe murder.
 - Twenty under Thirty*, edited by Debra Spark (Penguin, £4.99) Best stories by the rising generation of America's new young writers.
- POETRY**
- War Music*, by Christopher Logue (Faber, £4.95) Very free version of the *Patrocleia*, Books 16 to 19 of the Iliad, in

PAPERBACKS

which Patroclus is killed, and the great wheel of fate turns; the genuine hard stuff that will give you goose pimples.

NON-FICTION

- Metroland*, introduction by Oliver Green (Oidcastle, £5.95) The original guide to the country districts served by the Metropolitan Line, published in 1932. Oh my Rayners Lane and my Ruislip long ago.
- The Golden Oriole*, by Raleigh Trevelyan (Oxford, £5.95) Travel book, memoir, and history, recounting five journeys to India, mixing recollections of life there 50 years ago, and accounts of his famous Raj ancestors.
- Erasmus of Christendom*, by Roland Bainton (Lion, £5.95)

Biography in which blessed Erasmus is allowed to speak for himself, and in speaking, reveals his agreeable self.

Greek Architecture, by Roland Martin, and *Roman Architecture*, by John B. Ward-Perkins (Faber, £14.95 each) History of World Architecture series, heavily illustrated in colour and black-and-white.

S.J. Perelman, by Dorothy Herrmann (Macmillan, £7.95) The funny man who was always laughing in the dark, who took *The Times* wherever he was in the world as a sovereign source of farce, and whose jokes were more fun than his life.

The Life of Monsieur de Molière, by Mikhail Bulgakov, translated by Mira Ginsburg (Oxford, £5.95) The greatest Russian satirist of our century on the greatest French satirist of the 17th century, historically accurate, but full of imaginative fellow professionals' leaps and insights.

Voices from Twentieth-Century Africa, Griots and Towncriers, edited by Chinweizu (Faber, £6.95) Anthology of African literature, with even-handed balance between popular and academic, oral and written, folk and élite, translations from African languages and literature composed in the languages of Africa's alien conquerors.

Who Killed Hammett, by Paul Foot (Penguin, £4.99) An investigation into the notorious A6 murder, leaving no doubt that there was a massive and dreadful miscarriage of justice.

Gardening books were reviewed by Ruth Stungo last Saturday

DISORDERLY CONDUCT



SELECTED BY ROBBY JONES, CHARLES SEVILLA AND GERALD DELMER

We all hear about high court dramas, but the more modest courtroom exchanges are unfortunately largely unreported. To right this wrong, three distinguished jurists have collected an assortment of unintentionally hilarious exchanges in American courtrooms.

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The Atari 520 ST is top of the class again this year. For the second year running, it is the best-selling 16-bit computer in the land (and judging by the latest reports, it's likely to repeat the performance next year).

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The driving force behind these impressive achievements is the Motorola 68000 16/32-bit Microprocessor that gives you at least twice the power of those early 8-bit machines. This awesome processing power coupled with a built-in disk drive, 512K of RAM and modulator (allowing you to use your own television) makes it our most powerful home computer yet.

Its aptitude for games comes from its designers' years of training in amusement arcades around the world.

Musically, it has the advantage of a built-in MIDI output that interfaces with synthesizers and keyboards, not to mention the advantage of playing with Jean Michel Jarre and The Pointer Sisters.

For budding Hodkneys there is a 16 colour palette and a mouse to draw with plus enough software to produce Roger Rabbit II.

The combination of speed and graphics, of course, makes the Atari an outstanding business machine. Calculations take less time and documents look stunning. Needless to say, there is a wealth of software available for everything from DTP to spreadsheets.

There is one more reason why this computer is sought after more than others, and that is the price. You don't have to be a genius to realise that it's a gift.

ATARI 520 STFM

*Also available at £399.99 with 21 great software titles included.

EATING OUT

Suburban style war heroes

Nichol's appears to have been born with certain disadvantages. It occupies the site of a less commendable restaurant...

This site is 100 yards from South Hampstead railway station, which serves no such area because no such area exists...

Curter descriptions, not printed in an italic face, would make a lot of difference. Maybe this is merely a counsel of typographical prejudice...

They should also do their utmost to avoid music, let alone Muzak or Mantovani — who is on tap here. Apart from the fact that "La vie en rose" is an old bore...

I cannot believe that the eponymous couple who own Nichol's (David Nichol cooks, Susan Nichol organizes front of house) are such enthusiastic gerontophiles as to wish to aggravate aurally anyone under the age of 60...

The sort of place that Nichol's isn't would consider Nichol's underdressed: where are the flounces, the pleated curtains, the seriously ruffled

Jonathan Meades makes his way to Muzak-land and finds that a perfect torpedo potato dish is being cooked in north London



bits, the antiqued mirrors, the evident lifts from the full-frontal fabric shots in House and Garden? All you get here is dark turquoise banquettes, peach walls with decorative trim and a tree in a pot...

mouse that someone had assaulted with lemon juice. The one feuilletée was well-made or well-bought and its filling of lamb kidneys and lamb sweetbreads was bound with a well-judged and pungently meaty sauce.

good and looks handsome without this feature. Haddock, smoked and salty, is served as part of a warm salad with radicchio, coriander, tomatoes and a fine chive butter sauce...

are torpedo shaped and look like chic latkes or particularly intensely fried croquettes; the outside is crisp, the insides are pure puree. They require perfect timing, total confidence and a dose of admirable trickery...

Nichol's ★★★★★ 75 Fairfax Road, London NW6 (01-624 3880) £45 plus; all major credit cards. Children accepted, wheelchair access. Mon-Fri, noon-3pm and 7-11pm; Sat 7-11pm; Sun 12.30-2.30pm.

The Rotisserie ★ 56 Unbridge Road, London W12 (01-743 3228) £45; Visa only. Children accepted, wheelchair access. Mon-Fri, noon-3pm and 6-11.30pm; Sat 6-11.30pm; Sun 7-10.30pm.

Now, the wines: they are certainly adequate so far as they go — but this is a serious restaurant whose owners and whose co-chef, Gregg Lewis, are New Zealanders...

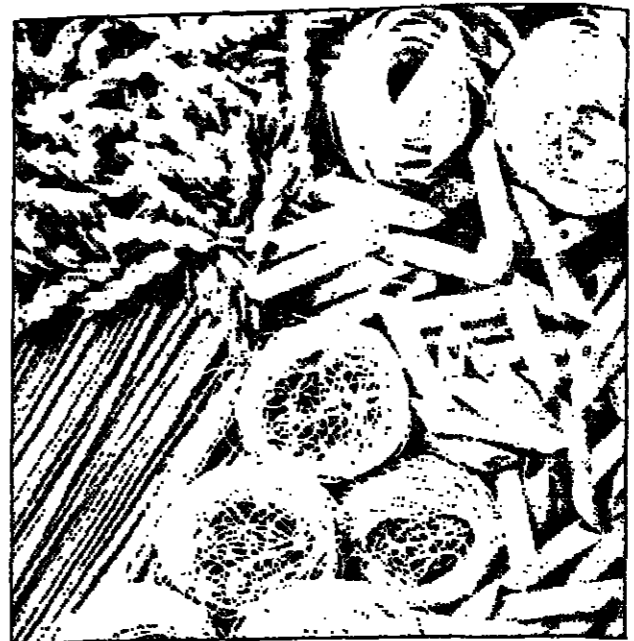
There is a fairly good New Zealand Cabernet Sauvignon which is certainly better value than the majority of the French stuff, and there is nothing wrong with Brown Bros Chardonnay, though it is hardly the Australian peak of this varietal...

The interior of the restaurant is tunnel-like and greenish. On one side there is a bar, on the other a char grill and rotisserie — the offerings of the former are to be preferred...

The interior of the restaurant is tunnel-like and greenish. On one side there is a bar, on the other a char grill and rotisserie — the offerings of the former are to be preferred...

The sauce with a salmon fillet is also a contender for a prize (a perfectly gauged cream and wine thing with an acidic splash of vinegar) and the sweets are splendid — a chocolate "ganache" with toasted sesame seeds and a pear sorbet made with eau de vie de poire and served with a poached pear in a blackcurrant sauce innocent of Ribena.

FOOD



Dried, delicious: few cooks bother to make fresh pasta

Pasta makes it perfect

Pasta is Chinese. The authoritative source for this assertion is the 1938 movie, The Adventures of Marco Polo, in which the hero demands of a beady mandarin the name of some steaming, farinaceous food...

became fashionable at parties in New York and San Francisco. A mysterious new commodity — fresh pasta — came on to the market.

An earlier venture of the same marketing school had been the "Ploughman's Lunch". Fresh pasta is quite frankly, something of a nonsense.

In fact, there are a number of nations claiming pasta in their patrimony. An accumulation of data suggests that Marco Polo did have noodles or if they have absolutely nothing else to do. Hand-rolling requires very considerable expertise but hand-rolled pasta is not what you get when you make funds available to acquire "fresh" pasta in a supermarket.

Pasta is more widespread in the United States and Britain than it is in Italy — in English-speaking nations it is invariably served with a pungent tomato sauce, but this is only because Britain and America were inhabited by poor Italians coming from the south, who found the quickest route to the folk memory was via the olfactory organ.

It is best to be purist about pasta: its simplicity is deceptive and the one common piece of advice you hear in a contentious area is "never leave the kitchen". I have seen rational Italians staring with Zen concentration into boiling cauldrons measured to the last centilitre and holding their breath until the dramatic moment arrives — never too early, not too late — when the stiff bucatini are consumed by the water.

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In large areas of Italy, pasta was and is disdained; patrician citizens of Milan and Turin prefer white meals such as risotto, bollito or polenta. Even in Tuscany, home of perhaps the purest and simplest Italian food, pasta dishes do not dominate the local repertoire. Spaghetti with meatballs is better known in Pittsburgh than Piacenza.

But the English and American relationship with pasta goes back a long way. When 18th-century Grand Tourists returned home with affected manners, they were known as "macaronis". At about the same moment that lasagne (a flat pasta, from the Greek laganon, or board, and rare in Italy) became a staple in English pubs and cold pasta

RESTAURANT GUIDE

Advertisement for Khan's Restaurant, 13-15 Westbourne Grove, London W2. Telephone: 01 727 5420. Open 7 days a week. Open 12-3 pm and 6-12 midnight. Khan's is one of the biggest and best Indian restaurants in Europe with a renowned reputation and friendly atmosphere.

Advertisement for The Raj Brasserie Mogul Cuisine. Fully air conditioned, cocktail lounge, disco area private conference room. Xmas offer: free bottle of house wine between 5 during Xmas month. Book now! Sunday buffet @ £6.95, eat as much as you like. Easy parking. Ring 01-388 3983.

Advertisement for Fleet Tandoori Indian Restaurant. 346 Muswell Hill Broadway, London N10. Tel: 01-883 8252. 104 Fleet Road, London NW3. Tel: 01-485 6402. Recommended by City Limits, Evening Standard and many other Food Critics.

Advertisement for Parks. Gourmet Christmas lunches and dinners. Call soon for details. 4 Beauchamp Place, Knightsbridge, London SW3. Reservations 01-225 3671. La Preferita of Lavender Hill, Ristorante Italiano. Just reopened. Looks and tastes even better now. Lunch & dinner 7 days a week. 146 Lavender Hill, SW11. Tel: 01-225 1846 01-225 7019.

Directory section listing various restaurants such as Le Mazarin, La Mascotte, La Bastide, L'Aventure, and Chez Gerard with their addresses and phone numbers.

Large advertisement for Montilla wine. Features the word 'MONTILLA' in large letters and an illustration of a man with a wine barrel. Text: 'In the timeless atmosphere of the Conde de la Cortina Bodegas the renowned Montilla wines age to perfection. The House of Conde de la Cortina ensures that they meet their exacting standards by complementing the many traditional wine making skills with the latest techniques. Their range of pale dry, medium, cream and pale cream light aperitif wines all have a natural strength and an enviable pedigree.' Bodegas Conde de la Cortina S.A.

THE TIMES COOK

The fine art of the edible gift

Food makes an ideal Christmas present. Frances Bissell gets busy

DANA LEADBETTER

Christmas shopping gets easier every year as catalogues thud on to the door mat from September.

I like to make a few food presents, such as unusual jams and jellies, potted meats and fish, biscuits and chocolates.

The following venison recipe makes about 1/2lb/340g and is a good way of using up left-overs from a roast, haunch or saddle.

Potted venison with juniper berries
1/2lb/300g cooked lean venison
1/2lb/110g unsalted butter
2 tsp red vermouth

Trim any fat and gristle from the venison and cut into small cubes. Put into the food processor with the butter, liquid and juniper berries.

My recipe for potted cheese and walnuts fills two 1lb jars or four 1/2lb jars, or it can be packed into ramekins.

Potted cheese and walnuts
1lb/455g blue cheese
1/2lb/230g Cheddar, Lancashire or Cheshire cheese
1/2lb/110g unsalted butter
3oz/85g freshly shelled walnuts

Coarsely grate the cheeses into a bowl, and mix with the softened butter. Beat together with a wooden spoon until thoroughly mixed.



rolling pin. Stir into the soft cheese mixture and then add the port, the spirits and a little freshly grated nutmeg.

Passion-fruit curd (Makes about 2lb/900g)
4 or 5 large passion-fruit
6 size 3 egg yolks
1/2lb/230g unsalted butter, cut into small cubes
1/2lb/340g sugar

Cut a slice off the top of each fruit, and carefully scoop all the pulp and seeds into a saucepan. Add a

tablespoon of water and heat gently. This will loosen the pulp. Place a fine sieve over a bowl, and rub the pulp and juice through it.

Cranberry and persimmon jam (Makes 3 1/2-4lb/1.60-1.80kg)
1lb/455g cranberries

2lb/900g persimmons
3pt/490ml water
2 1/2lb/1.10kg granulated or preserving sugar

Wash the cranberries, and put them into a saucepan. Cover with water, and cook gently until soft.

Remove pan from heat, let it stand

for 15 minutes and then skim the surface. Pour the jam into spoiltlessly clean, dry, warm jars.

For Singapore-style noodles, use fresh or dried egg noodles, rice noodles, rice sticks or vermicelli, and cook them according to the directions on the packet.

Singapore-style noodles (Serves 4)
1 size 3 egg
2 tsp sunflower or groundnut oil

1 onion, peeled and chopped
2 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
3-4oz/85-110g blanched bean sprouts
1 red and 1 green pepper, seeded and cut into narrow strips
1/2lb/340g peeled, frozen prawns (fresh or frozen)
1/2lb/110g cooked roast pork, duck or chicken in small pieces
1/2pt/140ml water or stock
2-3 tsp sherry or rice wine
2 tsp soy sauce
4 spring onions, trimmed and sliced
1 1/2lb/680g cooked noodles

Beat the egg, and with it make a thin flat crepe-like omelette in a frying pan or wok, using a little of the oil. Turn it over and quickly cook the other side.

Beat the egg, and with it make a thin flat crepe-like omelette in a frying pan or wok, using a little of the oil. Turn it over and quickly cook the other side.

DRINK

This year's crop of gift packs and cases is more bountiful and appealing than ever.

La Reserve, at 56 Walton Street, London SW3 (01-589 2020), may have knocked £75 off the price of Krug's glorious Grande Cuvée, selling it at £405 a case, with each bottle individually gift-packed in Krug's colours.

And what about Cockburn's wooden presentation case containing a bottle of its 10 Years Old Tawny Port (Asda, £8.69) plus a bottle of the rather dreary 1982 Late Bot-

tlé Vintage (Oddbins £7.49)? At least £5 of the £23 asked for this duo pack is for the presentation.

There are dozens of glossy gift catalogues, and some of the best ideas are to be found in that of the Wine Society, Gunnel Wood Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire (0438 741177).



by three bottles of sunny southern wine. The prices include delivery; Christmas orders must be received by Wednesday.

Going with the good old pack Jane MacQuitty takes the wrapping off some of the yuletide offerings

offers a short list of Christmas boxes. One of the most popular is its own excellent 1986 claret, non-vintage champagne and vintage character port trio.

Leading country wine merchant Lay & Wheeler, 6 Culver Street West, Colchester, Essex (0206 764446),



each of four different wines, including Tanners' splendid own-label claret, and my favourite Côtes du Rhône, Monsieur Ryckwaert's delicious Château du Grand Moulas.

worth £50 or more are delivered free. Otherwise the charge is £4.50.

La Vigneronne, 105 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-589 6113), has a tempting half-bottle Indulgence Case for £10 delivered.

The place to buy your bubbly this year is Bibendum at 113 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 (01-586-9761).

Premier from £15.81 to £13.65. The NW1 Bibendum will sell it by the mixed or single case only, but the branch at the Conran Shop, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 sells it by the bottle.

Berkmann Wine Cellars, at 12 Brewery Road, London N7 (01-609 4711) has six different 50cl Georges Dubouché bottles from the 1987 vintage for £24.10.

Robin Yapp, The Old Brewery, Mere, Wiltshire (0747 860423), has a Party Fizz Kit at £66, a saving of £8. It contains 10 bottles of a fresh, fruity Montlouis Mousseux from the Loire, plus a bottle each of a strawberry and raspberry liqueur.

WINE BUYS

Paul Georg Blanc de Blancs: Unknown but not for long. This Vertus co-operative's non-vintage Blanc de Blancs boasts an elegant bouquet and rich, full-flavoured Chardonnay palate.

1987 Pinot Gris d'Alsace: Pâtés and game terrines cry out for wine such as this rich, golden, perfumed Alsace white wine from leading co-op-



RESISTING TEMPTATION THE DOW'S PORT GUIDE

Temptation No 4 The answer

yield to temptation. Serve a elegant 1/2 or 3/4 glass of DOW'S Temptation No 4. The low-alcohol that lets a great wine. Try it, check, it's ours.

THE TRUE VINTAGE CHARACTER OF DOW'S

You can take a Bulgarian anywhere.



Bulgarian Country Wines

Whatever the occasion you're always safe with the new Bulgarian Country Wines. A range of reds and whites - a range with a lot of character.

Look out for Russe Riesling/Misket, Suhindol Merlot/Gamza, Petrich Cabernet Sauvignon/Melnik, with more fascinating names to come.

Expect to pay around £2 a bottle for quality that's typically Bulgarian. Pick up these top-value wines at most off-licences and supermarkets. Once again they're your chance to say...

Nazdrave*

*pronounced naz'dra'vay. That's "cheers" in Bulgarian.

Our record for creating old port is exceptional.



In 1847, we created our first Fonseca Vintage and in 1972 our renowned Fonseca Bin 27, now known as Bin No. 27.

And now, a mere 16 years later, Fonseca late bottled vintage 1983.

Meanwhile, 20, 30 or even 40 long years will have passed before our tawny ports have reached an acceptable state of maturity.

It will take a while before we endeavour to produce another new, old port. Which should give you sufficient time to sit and enjoy our greatest efforts to date.



What price excellence?

Less than you might think given the opportunity to enjoy these second wines from three of the 'great' Cordier Estates.

Drinking earlier than their famed namesakes, the two St Juliens - Sarget de Gruaud-Larose and Connetable Talbot - and the St Estèphe - Prieur de Meyne - have established a reputation that belies their modest prices.

These three remarkably fine Bordeaux wines are available from most good wine merchants.



CORDIER - one of the greatest names in Bordeaux

THE WEEK AHEAD

THEATRE LONDON

THE RELAPSE: British Actors' Theatre Company make their central London debut with the classic Vanbrugh comedy, Kate O'Mara, Roy Marsden, Peter Adams, Sabinia Franklyn, John Challis.

MAKING HISTORY: Brian Friel's latest play, presented at the NT by the Field Day company, with Stephen Rea as Hugh O'Neill, Irish adversary of Queen Elizabeth I.

MRS KLEIN: Transferred from the National Theatre. Gillian Barge, Francesca Annis, Zoë Wamaker, directed by Peter Gill in Nicholas Wright's study of psychoanalyst Melanie Klein.

SMELLING A RAT: New comedy devised by Mike Leigh, who directs Eric Allan, Brid Brennan, Greg Crutwell, Saskia Reeves and Timothy Spall.

OUT OF TOWN BIRMINGHAM: Walt Disney's World on Ice Touring spectacular, featuring champion skaters Linda Fratianne, Nick Macichuk and others alongside Disney characters.

CONCERTS ALKAN CONTINUES: A major event in the Alkan Centenary Festival is this piano recital by Ronald Smith, his most distinguished contemporary interpreter.

Etudes Op 76, Le Festin d'Esoppe and the Piano Symphony. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London, SE1 (01-928 8800). Today, 7.45pm.

CLASSICAL ROMANTICS: "Schubert and Mendelssohn: the Classical Romantics" continues with Stanislaw Skrowaczewski conducting the RPO in the former composer's Rosamunde Overture and Symphony No 6.

ESCHENBACH/ZEHENAIR: Christoph Eschenbach conducts the Philharmonia in Beethoven's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, Brahms's Symphony No 1 and Schumann's Violin Concerto.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Nuria Espert unveils her new production of Rigoletto, with Brent Ellis, Neil Shicoff and James Anderson leading the cast. First night Thurs at 7.30pm.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: A week of contrasting evenings: Tonight, Thurs and Sat Dec 10 at 7.30pm (also Sat mat), revival of Jonathan Miller's 1920s-style Mikado.

ROYAL BALLET: The Sleeping Beauty is danced tonight by Maria Almeida, Mon by Isabelle Guerin from Paris and Fri by Bryony Brind.

DANCE ADZIDO: Pan African dance ensemble in Coming Home. Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916). Wed, Dec 10.

Striking out for freedom



Epic story: Martin Wrenner and Imogen Stubbs star in The Rainbow

Untouched by film-makers for 73 years, D. H. Lawrence's novel, The Rainbow, has suddenly attracted two at the same time. For Ken Russell the project will form a sort of prequel to his 1969 film of Women in Love.

IRIEI: London based black dance company in Orpheus Ina Nighttown telling the Orpheus story to reggae music.

CONQUEST OF FORM: "Sculptural" computer art by William Latham.

GALLERIES DICK FRENCH: New figurative paintings and drawings.

ROCK THE POGUES: The Boozes Brothers' annual festive outing.

loss and transience. Institute of Contemporary Arts, London SW1 (01-930 3647). From Wednesday.

CONQUEST OF FORM: "Sculptural" computer art by William Latham.

GALLERIES DICK FRENCH: New figurative paintings and drawings.

ROCK THE POGUES: The Boozes Brothers' annual festive outing.

trade with Art Blakey. Base Clef, London W1 (01-725 2478) Sun, Tues, Wed, Thurs; Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (031 668 2019) Fri.

PHOTOGRAPHY METROPOLIS: Spectacular series of pictures documenting the making of Fritz Lang's movie, Metropolis taken by his brother-in-law, Horst von Harbou.

TELEVISION RETURN TO SAIGON: An ambiguous title, since journalist Anthony Grey's documentary records his first visit. He was there before only in the imagination, for his novel Saigon.

FIRST TUESDAY: Yorkshire Television's high-class documentary series investigates the alarming incidence of asbestos-related deaths in the Leeds area.

RADIO AGAINST THE STREAM: Keith Clements presents a portrait of Karl Barth, described by Pope Pius XII as the greatest theologian since St Thomas Aquinas.

FILMS ON TV PINK STRING AND SEALING WAX (1945): Google Withers as an evil landlady plotting the murder of her husband in Victorian Brighton.

family of Alec Guinnesses on his way to a fortune. BBC1, Fri, 1.50-3.35pm. THE LADY FROM SHANGHAI (1948): Bizarre Orson Welles thriller, with Welles as an Irish adventurer, Rita Hayworth the temptress and a famous climax in a hall of mirrors.

FILMS WILLOW (PG): Costly medieval fantasy from George Lucas, about an evil queen's reign of terror and an earnest midge's mission to save the infant princess.

SACRIFICED YOUTH (PG): Delicate film from a woman director, Zhang Nuanxin, about the culture clash experienced by a city girl exiled to the remote countryside during the Cultural Revolution.



HIGH SPIRITS (HS): Spirited supernatural comedy from director Neil Jordan, with Peter O'Toole (above) as the decrepit owner of an Irish castle advertised as haunted.

Theatre: Tony Patrick. Films: Geoff Brown. Concerts: Max Harrison. Opera: Hilary Firth. Rock: David Sinclair. Jazz: Clive Davis. Dance: John Percival. Games: David Lee. Photography: Mike Young. Television, Radio and Films on TV: Peter Waymark.

Christmas Gift Guide

FOR CHILDREN: Father Christmas is taking instructions for his famous letter. Includes 'CHECK CARD' and 'TOY CAR'.

FOR HIM: Men's overshoes. Slip over your shoes to protect them from the weather.

GAUNTLEYS OF NOTTINGHAM: Fine and Rare Wines and Havens Cigars at wholesale prices.

FOR HER: Fresh Daffodils and Groom Bros Ltd. Send cheque or Access/VISA number with your order.

GREEN WELLIE BROOCH: Send cheque or Access/VISA number with your order.

FRESHWATER PEARLS: Single Row - £22.50 Double Row - £28 Triple Row - £38.

THE BAPTISTRY: Send cheque or Access/VISA number with your order.

FOR EVERYONE: The Star Studded Christmas Gift. West End Theatre Gift Tokens.

AFGHAN SLIPPER SOCKS: The perfect gift for feet of all ages.

VIDEO: Send cheque or Access/VISA number with your order.

FOR HER: Fresh Daffodils and Groom Bros Ltd.

GREEN WELLIE BROOCH: Send cheque or Access/VISA number with your order.

FRESHWATER PEARLS: Single Row - £22.50 Double Row - £28 Triple Row - £38.

THE BAPTISTRY: Send cheque or Access/VISA number with your order.

THE ORIGINAL BRETON SHIRT: Orders to: THE BRETON SHIRT COMPANY.

PENNY PLAIN: Designer Knitwear, Separates & Jewellery.

CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION: Spouting Paintings, Prints and Brooches by contemporary British artists.

FOR HER: Fresh Daffodils and Groom Bros Ltd.

GREEN WELLIE BROOCH: Send cheque or Access/VISA number with your order.

FRESHWATER PEARLS: Single Row - £22.50 Double Row - £28 Triple Row - £38.

THE BAPTISTRY: Send cheque or Access/VISA number with your order.

EXCLUSIVE XMAS LEISUREWEAR: T-SHIRT £4.99 SWEATSHIRT £9.99 - P&P.

OLD ENGLISH VICTORIAN: BONSAY SALE.

MORE EXCITING THAN A PAIR OF SOCKS! IAN TAYLOR MOTOR RACING SCHOOL.

GURKHAS: Never had a country more faithful friends.

SOMERSET POSTAL FLOWERS: Beautiful flowers fast and a lot.

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA GALA NIGHT: 14th December '88.

CRYSTAL BALL: Send cheque or Access/VISA number with your order.

CHRISTMAS FARE: EL VINO CO LTD. Tel: 01-353 5384.

SMOKED SALMON: The perfect gift. Our finest Scottish Salmon is smoked in the traditional manner.

HAM ON THE BONE: STILL IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!

INTERCOFFEE: Christmas '88. "send it with Coffee".

FINEST SMOKED SCOTCH SALMON: A SERVICE NONE CAN BEAT!

GIGGINSTOWN CHEESE: A distinctive hand farmhouse cheese.

CAVIAR FOR CHRISTMAS: First Russian Caviar, Smoked Salmon.

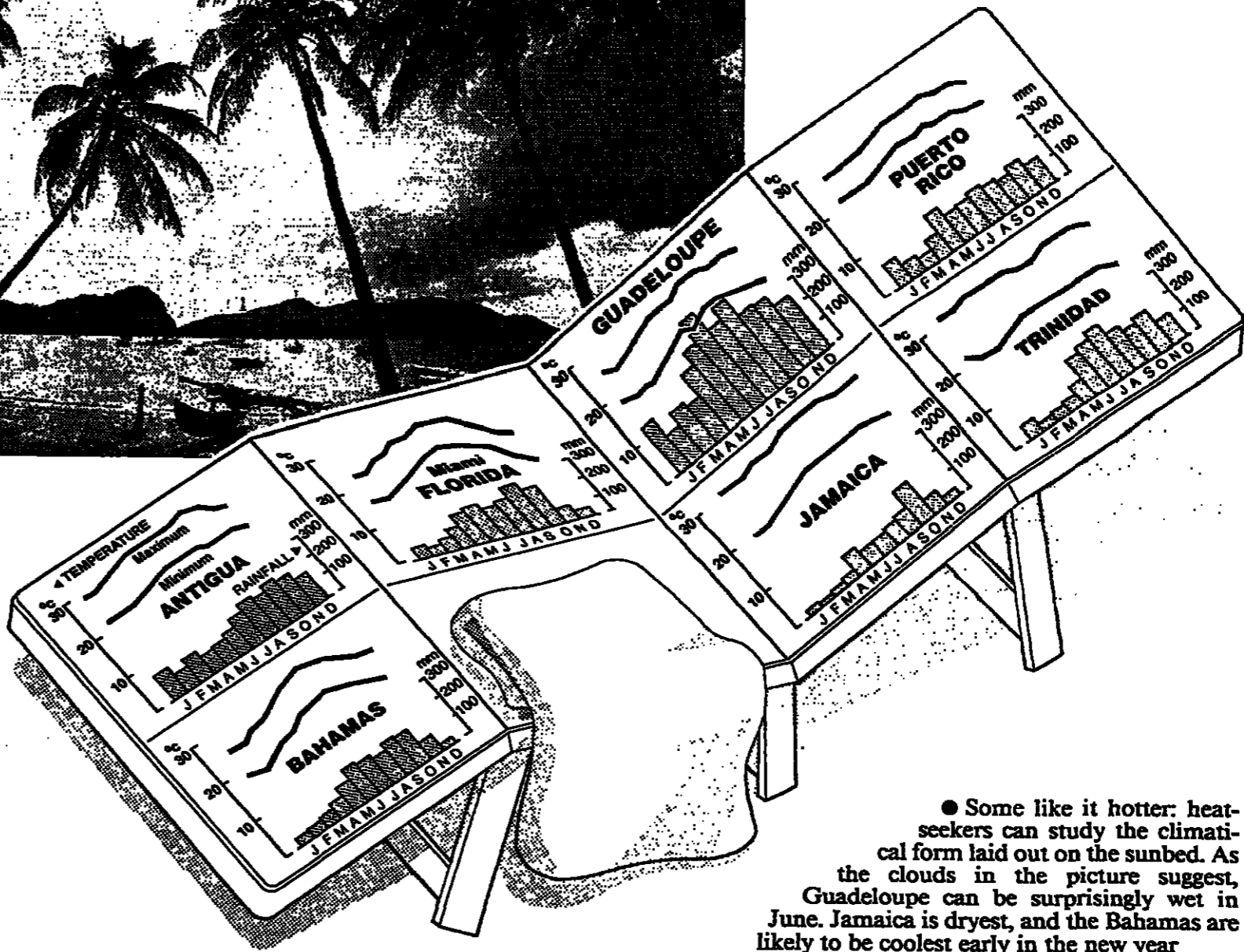
TRAVEL

Making sure of the sunshine

Islands in a sunlit sea, the Caribbean's attractions for serious winter sunseekers are timeless.

The only pirates you are likely to encounter today will be shaking cocktails or cabaret cutlasses, their sailing ships and buried treasure commemorated on menu graphics.

Alex McWhirter finds the most economical fares to the Caribbean's many islands.



Some like it hotter: heat-seekers can study the climatical form laid out on the sunbed. As the clouds in the picture suggest, Guadeloupe can be surprisingly wet in June.

High season in the Caribbean runs from December until April.

Direct flights are usually most convenient, but flying via Miami can be cheaper.

Direct flights

Official promotional fares. Miami Served non-stop from London by British Airways, Pan Am, Virgin Atlantic and US Airline Continental.

Caribbean: Virtually all direct flights are with either BA or the local airline BWIA.

To Antigua, Barbados or St Lucia there is an APEX fare at £464 and for those who cannot meet the 21-day advance booking requirement, a costlier PEX fare of £519.

To Montego Bay or Kingston, Jamaica, APEX costs £440 and PEX £519.

Special fares

Agents specializing in flights to the Caribbean, for example London's Rainbow Travel or Flight Connections, will readily rebate part of their commission.

selling non-stop London-Miami flights for just £258 return, almost £100 cheaper than the official rate.

Travelling via the United States

Some of the best value fares involve flying via the US, changing planes en route in Miami.

The same agency quoted £560 for a circle fare, London-Miami-Montego Bay-London, which would allow a Miami stopover on the way out, and a direct flight home from Montego Bay on a BA service.

Trailfinders, of Earl's Court, London, offers a wide selection of through fares, again via Miami, all of which handsomely undercut the APEX/PEX direct flight fares.

There are no advance booking restrictions on these Trailfinders deals.

US airpass add-ons

Several US Airpasses offer the possibility of booking a low-cost sidetrip to the Caribbean.

their mainland departure points are as varied as Miami, Dallas, Atlanta, Orlando, New York or Washington DC.

Of all the US carriers offering these sidetrips, Eastern has by far the most comprehensive network.

more \$149 (£83) for its Florida/Bahamas Airpass which lets you fly to three points within Florida and one in the Bahamas.

All Airpasses must be bought in the UK.

Airlines

Air France: 01-499 9511. American: 0800-010151. BA: 01-897 4000.

BWIA: 01-734 3796. Delta: 0800-414767. Eastern: 023-517622.

Agents

Bon Voyage: 0703-330332. Flight Connections: 01-631 4482.

WORLD SERVICE

Table with columns for SATURDAY and SUNDAY, listing various news and entertainment items.



Paris is usually strike-bound at the moment; but when things improve the new Paris Carte Musée, which costs £5 for one day and £15 for five, will appeal to only the most tireless sightseer.

TRAVEL NEWS

Rating the Crowns

Wales has followed Scotland in opting for add-on quality ratings for its Crown Classification Scheme of holiday accommodation.

modation, to 24-hour room service in five crown hotels.

Hippocratic voyage: A cruise focusing on the history of medicine and surgery is the latest in Swan Hellenic's programme of themed voyages.

Florida villas

Meon is the latest operator to come up with a Florida programme. Called "Florida Meon Style", it offers villas and apartments only, inclusive of car hire, and with no surcharges.

TRAVEL BOOKS

Venice: The Biography of a City by Christopher Hibbert (Grafton Books, £20) is as captivating as the place.

Evocation of Amsterdam LIZ REBER. For a free attractive and original poster of Amsterdam (19" x 27" together with our brochures for individual inclusive holidays to this lovely city, write or phone: Liz Reber, Chester Close, London SW1X 7BQ 01-235 8070

important monument and work of art in Venice.

Negley Farson's Caucasian Journey (Penguin, £3.99), tells of Farson and his eccentric companion Alexander Wickstead, who in 1929 began their journey from Moscow to the Caucasus.

The Paris of the Revolution LYN MACDONALD. For a free copy of this exciting and evocative history to mark the bi-centennial of the French Revolution, together with our brochure of individual holidays to this lovely city, write or phone: Lyn Macdonald, Chester Close, London SW1X 7BQ 01-235 8070

Short breaks FAR FROM THE madding crowd DENMARK, SWEDEN, GERMANY FROM £99 Call us today for a copy of our 'Moments' brochure. And pamper yourself with a 4-6 day luxury break that's as different as you are.

Cruise the Upper Nile with Swan Hellenic. 15 day leisurely cruises of Upper Egypt, with ample time to enjoy all the main sites. Departures 25th January and 8th March, all-inclusive prices from £1,600.

Another world, but not half a world away. Madeira at Reid's Madeira. Reid's Hotel, Madeira. With some 300 staff for a minimum of 300 guests you will experience a standard of service matched by few hotels. You will sleep between real high altitudes in comfortable or compacted rooms, and depending on your mood you can enjoy the tranquillity of an island or the excitement of a town.

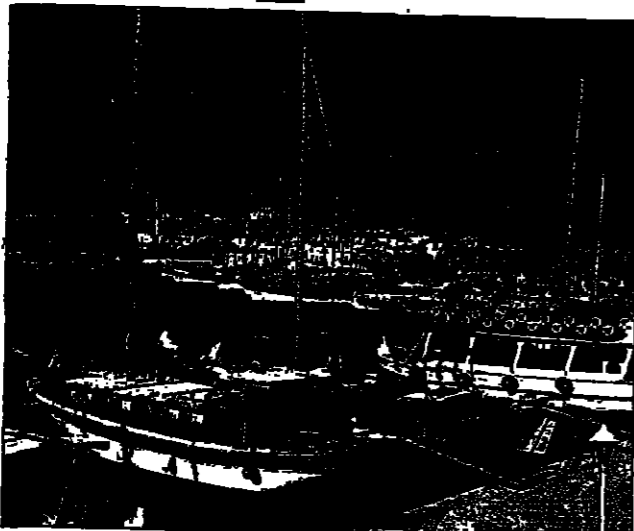
RENAISSANCE For travellers with an appreciation of the natural and cultural treasures of the world. Renaissance specialises in a selection of high quality tours built around a particular theme or activity. Subjects are diverse and include historical heritage, performing arts, history of art, garden appreciation, ancient civilisations, walking, literature and legend, natural history, wine appreciation, painting, photography and world religions.

SOUTH TYROL DOLOMITES-ITALY

A sunny ski paradise in Northern Italy. Skiing for everyone at prices you can afford! 850km of well-kept pistes, challenging and beginners' slopes and cross-country ski tracks. The Super Dolomiti Skipass and good value Regional Skipasses provide access to a varied ski terrain.

TRAVEL

Adrift in old empires



Painted ships: Bodrum is a principal harbour for schooners

The twin-masted gulet schooner let Brian Jackman sample a Turkey as yet unlappped by the tourist tide

The "Kapitan", a middle-aged Turk with a corsair's moustache and a disarming smile, welcomed us at the jetty. Going aboard his ship was like entering a mosque. No shoes ever sully his scrubbed teak decks and carpeted cabins. So, for the next seven days, we lived barefoot. Ever since I first visited Turkey five years ago, sailing along the Lycian coast, I had stared with longing at the stately gulets, the old-fashioned twin-masted schooners that ply the waters between Bodrum and Kekova. Now, here I was on the Guler-A, bound from Göcek on a chartered cruise around the bay of Fethiye.

There were 15 of us on board. Besides the Kapitan there was Recep, the cook, and Hilmi, the deck hand. The rest were passengers like me: 11 Britons and Teo, an English-speaking Turk who became our guide for the week.

Strangers when we met but the best of friends when we parted, we were a disparate group (showbiz, finance, architecture, publishing) drawn together by lure of shores still scarcely touched by the tourist tide. Our host's gulet was a beautiful vessel, 65ft long, with spacious quarters, powered by a diesel engine and wooden throughout, from her rakish bowsprit to her piratical poop. Sometimes, scrambling up the hillsides above our anchorage, I would look down through the pines and see her like a scene from *Treasure Island*, floating in water of such clarity she seemed to hover in mid-air above her own shadow on the seabed.

In those hot, deserted turquoise coves, a hotel would have been sacrilege: yet a gulet at anchor seemed romantic and fitting. It was late September, in Turkey's "yellow summer" with hot, sunny days and nights so warm that we slept out on deck beneath the stars.

In the mornings we would slip over the side for a swim before breakfast and return to a table laden with a sultan's feast: cheese and olives, chopped tomatoes, yoghurt, boiled eggs, sliced peaches, melon, crusty Turkish loaves, and dark amber honey.

Every meal was memorable, a cook's tour conducted by the indefatigable Recep. One evening the talk turned to

baklava, the honey-soaked pastry beloved by the Turks. Next day, in Fethiye, we scoured the narrow streets between carpet shops and fruit markets until we found a pastrycook who made it, and brought some back for supper.

Early next morning, long before the sun was over the horizon, the Kapitan and his crew were hauling the anchor and getting under way for Olü Deniz, the blue lagoon of a million Turkish tourist posters.

There is something about putting to sea which other journeys cannot match. At the beginning of every voyage comes that magical moment of letting go. A gulet is your home. It is, moreover, a moveable home, letting you explore in comfort a coast so wild that even today most of it is still inaccessible by road.

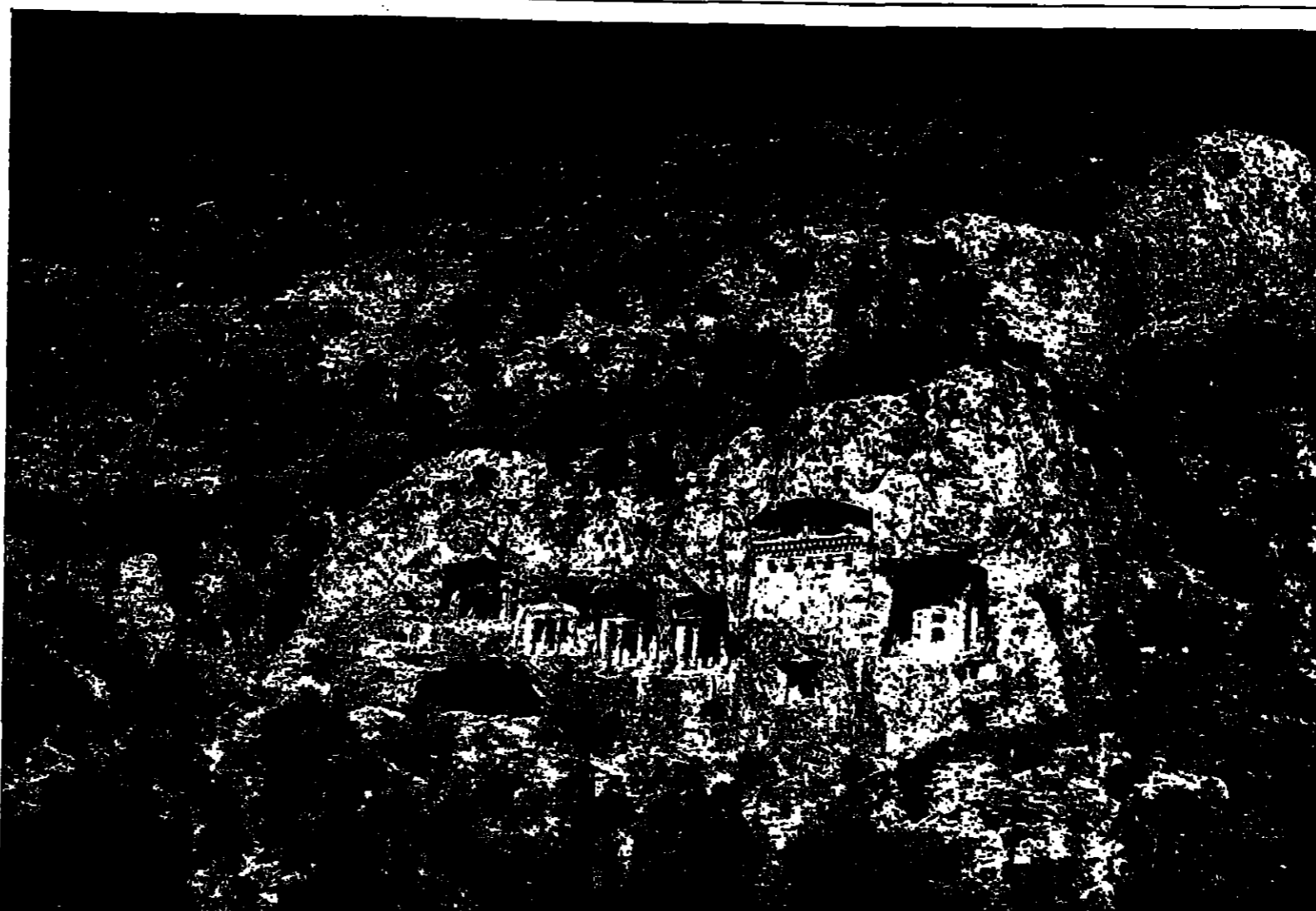
Here are stark capes, parched headlands lumbering into the sea, fleets of islands bristling with pines, reminiscent of a Japanese print, indigo bays where dolphins play and flying fish skim like swallows. Beyond, the mountains are leached of all substance by the heat, leaving only their hackled crests against the sky.

This was the ancient sea kingdom of the Lycians, who colonized the region during the second millennium BC. They were conquered by Alexander the Great and later the Romans, who found them so warlike they ultimately restored their independence. The Lycians are no more. Their rock tombs stare like eyeless sockets from a host of lonely cliffs, and cyclamen bloom from the ruins in Xanthos.

The Lycian shore must be the least spoilt littoral in the Mediterranean. It cannot last. Bodrum and Marmaris are now on the package tourist beat, and deserted anchorages are becoming harder to find as gulet cruising becomes more popular. But so far the Turks have behaved honourably in protecting their coastline.

Dalyan's reeds, ruins and turtle beach have been spared the development with which they were threatened. As for the dunes of Patara, the Seven Capes and the pine-scented hillsides of Skoepa Liman, it is impossible to imagine them other than they are now, pristine and inviolate.

Brian Jackman is a writer with *The Sunday Times Magazine*.



Last of the Lycians: rock tombs staring from lonely cliffs (here at Kaunos) testify to the power of a lost sea kingdom. Many sites can be explored only by boat



TRAVEL NOTES

Brian Jackman travelled as a guest of McCulloch Marine Charter, 60 Fordwych Road, London NW2 3TH (01-452 7509). McCulloch Marine is the most experienced British-based agent specializing in Turkish gulet charters, and will also make your travel arrangements. The nearest airport is Dalaman.

● Gulets can be chartered for a week or a whole season, with rates based on a daily price per boat - from £182 on a smaller gulet in May, to £767 per day in high season (August) on the most luxurious, air-conditioned craft.

● Further information on Turkey's Lycian coast from: Turkish Tourist Office, 170-173 Piccadilly, London W1 (01-734 8651).

THE CRAFT OF GIFTMANSHIP.

Lacquered Cufflinks, £65-£95.

Champagne face, Millennium watch, £550.

Tan strap watch, available in two sizes and a choice of dials, £425.

Thuya exotic veneered Humidor, £495.

Ostrich Bill Fold, £225.

Ostrich Box Hip Flask, £99.

Pure silk ties from £42.50.



Visit Alfred Dunhill at Duke Street St. James's, Burlington Arcade and 5 Sloane Street. Our Executive Services Manager will be pleased to arrange an appointment to bring a selection of gift ideas to your office. Tel: (01) 499 9566.



Eastern artifacts: carpets on sale at Kalkan; cheese and spinach pasties; and bread ready for transport to the islands

SATURDAY TELEVISION & RADIO

SUNDAY

Compiled by Peter Dear and Jane Rackham

BBC1

5.15 Sunday Sports News with Benjamen (0) 8.25
6.00 Gull Life presented by Phillip Schofield and Sarah Greene. Among the guests is Rick

BBC2

9.00 Contact 12.00 French University, Yassin Abjal and Terry Woodcock debate whether or not Britain's Asians should be designated black.

ITV/LONDON

6.00 TV-am begins with Saturday Sport presented by Geoff Carr. 7.30 Wednesday, Yassin Abjal and Terry Woodcock debate whether or not Britain's Asians should be designated black.

CHANNEL 4

6.30 How Does Your Garden Grow? Northern Ireland. 10.30 The Franchising Game. Episode nine of the 11-part

BBC1

6.30 The Franchising Game. Episode nine of the 11-part documentary series. 10.30 The Franchising Game. Episode nine of the 11-part

BBC2

6.00 Contact 8.25 New on Two with Simon Pegg. 8.50 The Franchising Game. Episode nine of the 11-part

ITV/LONDON

6.00 TV-am introduced by George Spinnaker. 6.30 The Franchising Game. Episode nine of the 11-part

CHANNEL 4

6.30 Orientations reports from Paris on the most important Christmas in Europe and there is a

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BBC2 12.00 The Crown Prince. 12.00 The Crown Prince. 12.00 The Crown Prince. 12.00 The Crown Prince.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3 1988

- COMMENT: KENNETH FLEET 19
SHOPS: HARD WINTER AHEAD 19
PEPs: BARCLAYSHARE QUIT 23
JOBS: MAKING A SECOND START 27

Executive Editor David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8575 (+0.0040)
W German mark 3.2125 (+0.0050)
Trade-weighted 78.5 (+0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1439.7 (-10.5)
FT-SE 100 1785.0 (-13.7)
Bargains 20845
USM (Datastream) n/a

Betacom investors take 63%

Last week's stock market collapse severely mauled the flotation of the Betacom telephone company, as revealed in The Times yesterday.

Investors applied for just 62.84 per cent of the issue, leaving the balance with the underwriters, Betacom, which is part of the Cannon Street Investments group, had offered just over 20 million shares at 82p each.

Losses rise

Scottish Ice Rink reports an increased pre-tax loss of £63,000 for the year to end-August, compared with £40,000.

STOCK MARKETS

Table of stock market data including New York Dow Jones, Nikkei Average, Hong Kong, Amsterdam Gen, Sydney: AO, Frankfurt, Commodities, Brussels, Paris: CAC, Zurich: SIK Gen, FT-30, FT-SE 100, etc.

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Table of price changes for various stocks such as GF Lovell, Davies & Newman, FAIRFAX, etc.

INTEREST RATES

Table of interest rates for London Bank Base, 3-month interbank, 3-month eligible bills, etc.

CURRENCIES

Table of currency exchange rates for London, New York, C: DMS, S: SFR, etc.

GOLD

Table of gold prices for London Fixing, AM, COMEX, etc.

NORTH SEA OIL

Table of North Sea oil prices for Brent (Jan), etc.

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141
Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: Davies and Newman (02210) shook off the market tone and shot up 25p; ahead of figures Norcross (01299) dropped 5p and Caradon International (01704) slumped 11p; profit-taking took 25p off Tetagur Jute (08545); agencies were dull with Lowe, Howard, Spink and Bell (01156) down 20p while Sinclair Goldsmith (04103) slipped 5p.

British Steel p/p letters of allotment (03555) will be added on Monday afternoon.
Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

British Steel offer is heavily oversubscribed

By David Brewerton
Investors applied for over a billion shares in British Steel, more than twice the number on offer in the public subscription, when lists closed at 10.01 am yesterday morning.

The "Sიდneys" had been holding back after the market fell sharply a week ago. In the event, 500,000 applications came in, enough to ensure that none of the issue was left with the underwriters and triggering "clawbacks" from overseas and institutions.

Despite the heavy oversubscription, private investors at the smaller end and those who applied for the minimum subscription of 400 shares will be given a full allocation, and there will be no ballot.

Shares available in the public "Offer for Sale" and it is that offer which has been oversubscribed. That number of shares will now be increased to \$42 million shares by "claw-back" from the overseas and institutional allocations.

The offer closed on another poor day for London shares, which were affected by the US employment figures and continuing worries about inflation and interest rates.

US job figures throw markets into confusion

From Bailey Morris, Washington
Financial markets were thrown into confusion yesterday by the November unemployment figures which showed a slight gain in the jobless rate to 5.4 per cent but also revealed a big increase in new jobs, which heightened inflation concerns.



Last man in: Steart Murphy of NatWest in the City, prepares for the steel deadline, while Lloyds' staff count applications

Issue for the small investor

By Andrew Morgan
Mr George Martin, a messenger with the National Westminster Bank and a veteran of privatizations, eyed the determined trickle of investors in British Steel and chose his words with care.

Reserves at record in sterling battle

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent
Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves rose by an underlying \$428 million last month, as the Bank of England intervened to restrain sterling.

Head of PBI is dismissed

Black Arrow, the office furniture distributor, yesterday sacked Mr Jim Park, managing director-founder of its Glasgow-based subsidiary, Park Business Interiors, and said it had "opened legal proceedings" against him.

Irish group makes an agreed £88m bid for CLF Holdings

CLF Holdings, the finance leasing company, yesterday agreed to an £88.1 million bid from Yeoman International, a private Irish company. The deal is worth 250p a share cash for CLF which arrived on the stock market in 1986 at a price of 125p.

SEC to study corporate debt

A broad study of corporate debt has been ordered by Mr David Ruder, chairman of the US Securities & Exchange Commission, following the wave of takeovers which culminated this week in the record \$25 billion (£13.5 billion) acquisition of RJR Nabisco Inc.

Interim drop at Cranswick

Cranswick Mill, an animal feeds group, has given a warning that its final dividend is threatened after a sharp fall in first-half profits, from £431,000 to £315,000.

Tribunal will decide if millionaire is 'fit' to hold licences

The High Court yesterday gave Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland leave to seek a judicial review of the decision by Lord Young, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, not to order a Monopolies Inquiry into the Fayed brothers' takeover of the House of Fraser stores group.

Threat to Bond TV and radio empire

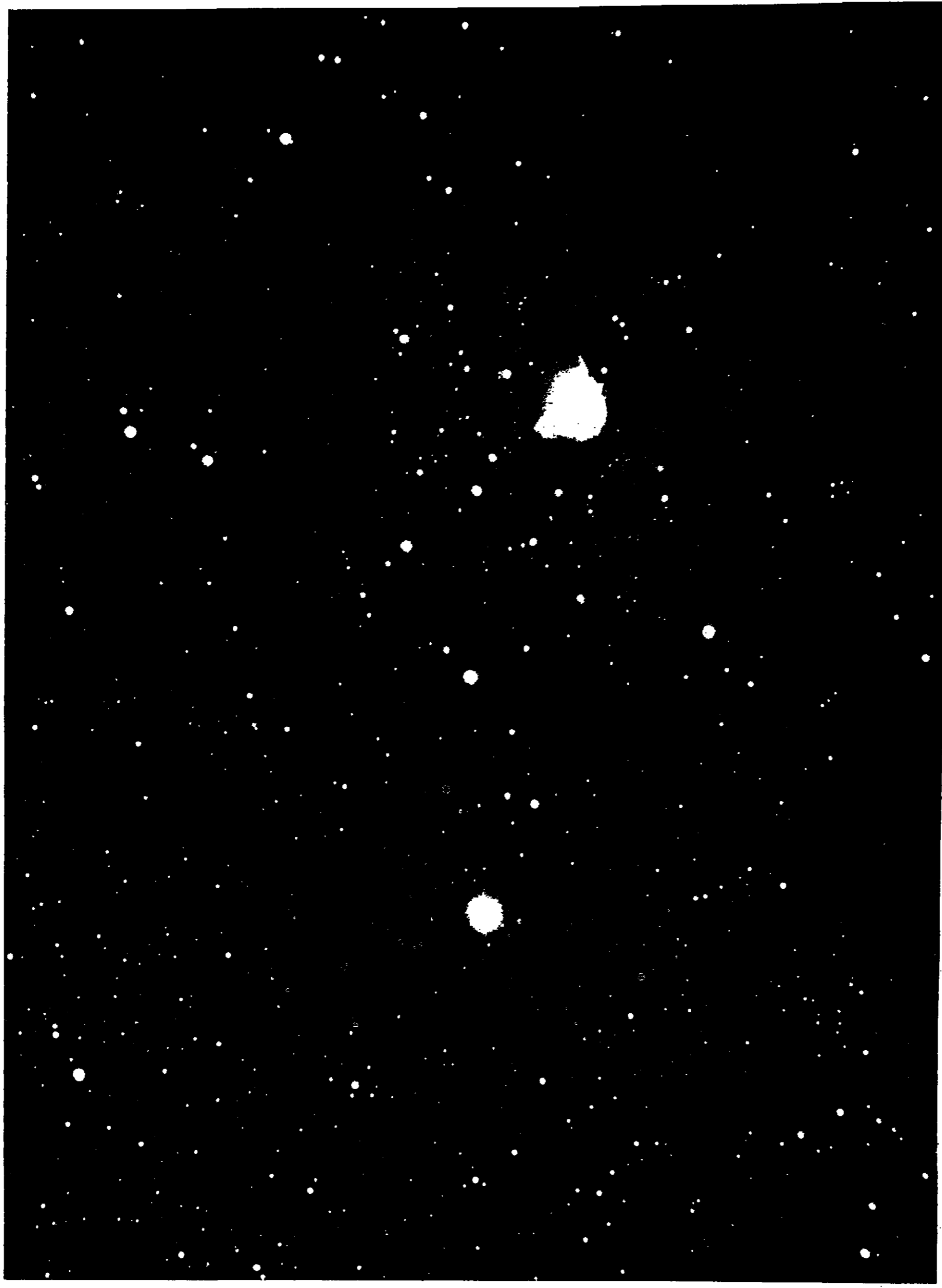
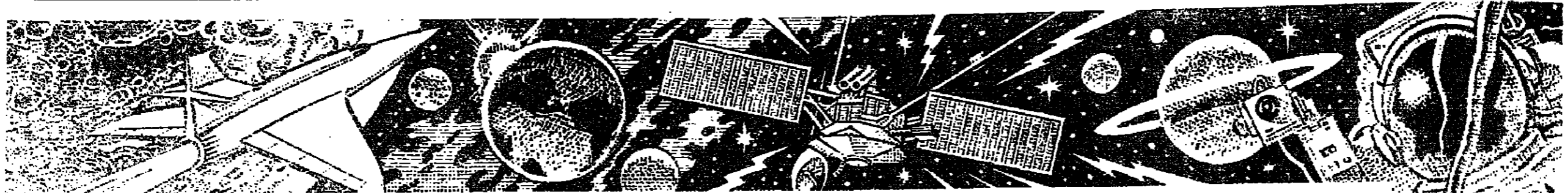
From Christopher Morris, Sydney
Is millionaire Mr Alan Bond a "fit and proper person" to run a television station? That is the question which, for the past seven weeks, has been occupying the minds of the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal, the Bond empire and every lawyer in the country.

Advertisement for The Data Protection Act featuring the headline '£40 is a small price to pay to stay within the law' and details about registration and data protection requirements.

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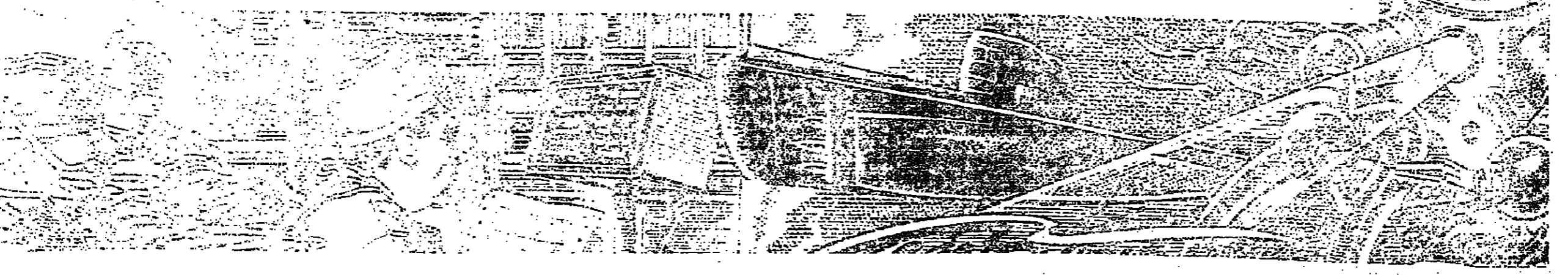
I c c i t i o n



ONE PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE HAS THE PERFECT VACUUM. CRAWLEY.

Strange but true. The scientists at our high vacuum laboratory in deepest Sussex can do what deep space can't. They can create the most perfect usable vacuum known to man. Indeed, our mastery of advanced vacuum technology has made this one of the fastest growing sectors of our business. Last year, its profits rose by more than a third. One great leap that naturally left us over the moon.

THE BOC GROUP
MORE THAN JUST A BRITISH OXYGEN COMPANY.



Business Trip
chiefs
invest
in hotel

Ret

Anglo American
America at £10.3

Prices subsid

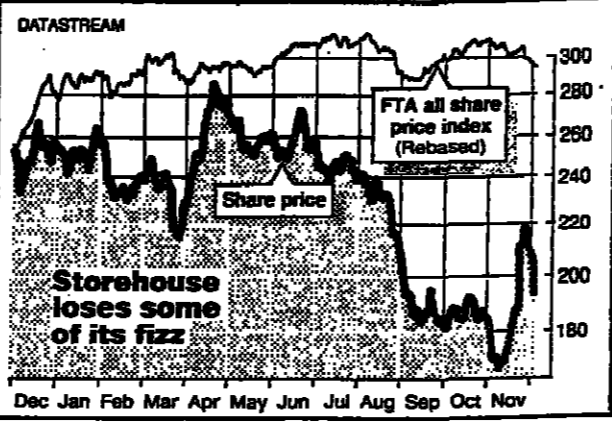
The
T

WALL STREET

New York (Reuter) - Shares dropped in early trading yesterday, along with bond prices, after the news of a stronger-than-expected rise in November employment. Analysts said that the rise raised fears that the Federal Reserve Board would tighten credit.

Storehouse in retreat as bid speculation evaporates

Some of the speculative froth that has made Storehouse, the retail group which includes British Home Stores, Habitat-Moertcher and Richards shops, one of the market's strongest features in the past weeks is showing signs of evaporating.



said to have reduced their estimate of company earnings for 1989 from 15 to 5 per cent. A number of other brokers also believe that a strong pound, combined with high interest rates, can only mean a squeeze on company earnings.

Table of stock prices for various companies including AMR Co, ASA, Aena Life, Allied Signal, Alfa Chim, etc.

He says that the share price has been buoyed by "massive speculation" which has seen 30 per cent of the company's shares change hands in the past week or so.

Last year - before the crash - Sir Terence Conran, the Storehouse chairman, managed to fight off an audacious bid from Mr Peter Earl's Benlox after rejecting earlier proposals from Mounleigh.

ing indications that the British Steel flotation was unlikely to be the resounding flop indicated by some commentators, soon faded.

The dull conditions saw the FT-SE 100 index fall through the 1,775 resistance level to stand 18.9 points lower at 1,756.

Table of stock prices for companies like Fidelity, Fidelity, Fidelity, etc.

Reuter's shares rose by 6p to 467p against the trend. The board gave a presentation for analysts and fund managers in New York this week and clearly made a favourable impression.

Conditions in the rest of the equity market remained volatile. Share prices extended Thursday's losses, worried by the bearish outlook of several leading brokers houses and the latest US unemployment figures.

Suggestions during after-hours trading that James Capel, the broker, had asked his analysts to review their earnings forecasts during this weekend only added to the gloom. Capel's economists are

1,759.8 by 3 pm, having been 22.3 down earlier. The narrower FT index of 30 leading shares was 14.2 points lower at 1,436.0, having been 16.1 down.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues of various companies and their prices.

Mr Richard says that if all the recent bid speculation was stripped out, the share price would be trading at about the more realistic level of 150p.

He said: "If anyone has built up a stake, why would they do it in such an incoherent fashion by pushing up the price and attempting to kick Storehouse into play?"

Attempts at a rally, following indications that the British Steel flotation was unlikely to be the resounding flop indicated by some commentators, soon faded.

Among the leaders Cadbury Schweppes recovered from an early fall to extend Thursday's lead, boosted by the revived talk of a bid from General Cinema of the US, which continues to cling on to an 18 per cent stake.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Table of unit-linked insurance investments including Aetna Life Insurance, Allstate, etc.

STUDIOS, APARTMENTS, VILLAS, CHATEAUX & ISLANDS IN THE SUN

Advertisement for real estate featuring 'THE TIMES CLASSIFIED' and phone number 01-481 4000.

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

Table showing interest rates for various banks and financial institutions.

FIRST TIME BUYERS

Table listing first-time buyers and their associated financial products.

Table of unit-linked insurance investments (continued).

Table of unit-linked insurance investments (continued).

Table of unit-linked insurance investments (continued).

Table of unit-linked insurance investments (continued).

The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches or better this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Code, etc. Lists various companies like Billam U, Waverley Cem, Bank of Ireland, etc.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Total. Includes instructions to please take into account any minus signs.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table for SHORTS (Under Five Years) with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for OVER FIFTEEN YEARS with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for UNDATED with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for INDEX LINKED with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for BANKS, DISCOUNT HP with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Decline continues

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 28. Dealings end December 9. Contango day December 12. Settlement day December 19. and bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at 4 pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Table for BREWERIES with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for BUILDING, ROADS with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for FINANCE, LAND with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for FINANCIAL TRUSTS with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for FOODS with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for CHEMICALS, PLASTICS with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for DRAPERY, STORES with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for HOTELS, CATERERS with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for INDUSTRIALS A-D with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for BREWERIES (continued) with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for BUILDING, ROADS (continued) with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for FINANCE, LAND (continued) with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for FINANCIAL TRUSTS (continued) with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for FOODS (continued) with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for CHEMICALS, PLASTICS (continued) with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

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Table for HOTELS, CATERERS (continued) with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for INDUSTRIALS A-D (continued) with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

WEEKLY DIVIDEND £8,000 Claims required for 185 points ACCUMULATOR £28,000 Claims better than 185 points Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Table for OVERSEAS TRADERS with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for PROPERTY with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for MINING with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for MOTORS, AIRCRAFT with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for SHIPPING with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for SHOES, LEATHER with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for TEXTILES with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for TOBACCO with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for OILS, GAS with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS (continued) with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Table for OILS, GAS (continued) with columns: High Low, Price, Div, etc.

Ex dividend = Ex all to Forecast dividend = Interim payment passed 1 Price as suspension of Dividend and yield excludes a special payment 1 Pre-emptive rights = Ex other Ex rights = Ex scrip or share split 1 Tax-free = No significant data.

FAMILY MONEY

Edited by Vivien Goldsmith

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 Address _____ Postcode _____
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Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below this week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 21).

Date	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Weekly
1	+3	+5	+5	+4	+5			
2	+4	+5	+5	+7	+1			
3	+1	+2	+2	+4	+4			
4	+3	+3	+8	+6	+2			
5	+5	+4	+4	+4	+3			
6	+2	+2	+7	+5	+3			
7	+2	+5	+5	+7	+1			
8	+2	+2	+2	+4	+4			
9	+2	+4	+6	+8	+1			
10	+5	+4	+4	+3	+5			
11	+2	+2	+2	+3	+4			
12	+3	+2	+3	+3	+5			
13	+2	+2	+6	+5	+2			
14	+1	+2	+1	+5	+3			
15	+3	+5	+4	+8	+2			
16	+3	+3	+8	+3				
17	+3	+5	+3	+4	+3			
18	+3	+1	+1	+3	+5			
19	+3	+1	+2	+3	+2			
20	+4	+7	+5	+6	+2			
21	+5	+2	+4	+3	+3			
22	+1	+3	+6	+5	+1			
23	+2	+7	+5	+7	+2			
24	+2	+2	+4	+3	+3			
25	+2	+2	+6	+6	+1			
26	+1	+3	+2	+4	+2			
27	+2	+4	+3	+5	+6			
28	+2	+5	+4	+8	+1			
29	+2	+2	+3	+5	+5			
30	+2	+2	+6	+4	+2			
31	+2	+4	+6	+6	+1			
32	+2	+3	+3	+3	+2			
33	+1	+1	+7	+4	+2			
34	+2	+2	+3	+3	+3			
35	+1	+4	+6	+7	+1			
36	+2	+3	+2	+3	+2			
37	+1	+1	+7	+5	+1			
38	+4	+5	+5	+5	+1			
39	+2	+2	+5	+5	+6			
40	+3	+1	+7	+5	+1			
41	+2	+5	+5	+5	+3			
42	+2	+4	+8	+5	+1			
43	+2	+2	+8	+4	+3			
44	+1	+1	+1	+5	+5			

First payouts likely under SIB compensation scheme

The 60 people who invested £400,000 in the failed Allied Equity arm of the Earley brothers' Humberside empire could be the first to be refunded under the Investors' Compensation Scheme.

This was set up under the Financial Services Act and came into force in August. It repays up to £48,000 of any loss due to an authorized firm going into default - 100 per cent of the first £30,000 and 90 per cent of the next £20,000.

Allied Equity was registered under Inuro, the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation. This week the liquidator of Allied Equity, Mr Edward Klempla, insolvent partner with Deloitte, Haskins & Sells in Leeds, met the managers of the scheme.

Mr Klempla said: "They are being very positive. How-

ever since it is their first claim they are being very careful to go by the rule book. First they have to declare Allied Equity to be in default and only then can they receive claims. However there do seem to be some radical deficiencies between assets and liabilities. It is important to note that the scheme only protects private individuals and not professional investors."

Mr Eddie Ray, chairman of the compensation scheme management company, which operates under the Securities and Investments Board, said: "There is a creditors' meeting on Thursday. If the company is declared to be in default then we will compensate for any missing cash. It is important to stress that we do not compensate for poor investment performance, only

for missing cash. If there is a valid claim we hope to move quickly and make a pay-out within six months. I advise any of the investors with Allied Equity to get in touch with us directly."

Allied Equity is the second of the Earley brothers' companies to crash. Last month Earley Enterprises went down owing £3.7 million after disastrously buying into MES, the computer company based at Warrington, Cheshire.

The companies attracted attention largely because of the "golden touch" of Mr Aidan Earley, whose stock market coups had reportedly made him a millionaire by the age of 21. His four brothers joined him in setting up companies in their home-town of Market Weighton, Humberside.

These included investment,

finance, property development and kitchen fitting firms. Earley Enterprises, the flagship company, won local support by offering returns of up to 44 per cent at one stage. It is too early to say how close, if at all, the finances of Earley and Allied Equity were mixed up.

When Earley Enterprises first ran into difficulties at the end of October, Mr Earley said: "The problem is isolated and is in the process of being resolved. Anybody else who would like to know more is quite welcome to call at our offices."

Unfortunately his optimism was not justified. Anyone who tries to find out more by phoning the office hears the disconnected tone.

Hugh Thompson

Credit licence plans under fire

Government plans to axe the licensing system for credit brokers have been criticized by consumer groups.

Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading, and the Consumers' Association have both protested strongly about the proposed changes in consumer credit controls.

The deadline for submissions on the proposals expired yesterday although some organizations, including the National Consumer Council, have been given extra time.

Sir Gordon says in his submission that he is "deeply concerned" about the plan to remove the need for brokers to be licensed.

"In my view these proposals will lead to significant consumer detriment. I consider that there is a need for more objective research and inquiry before such measures are implemented."

Under the proposed new system, only lenders and hirers would have to be licensed. However, brokers with a bad record would have to apply for a licence and there would be a blacklist of those whose applications for licences had been refused or whose licences had been revoked.

The consultative document proposes that trading standards offices would have the power to act swiftly against businesses believed to be acting improperly. At present it can take months to revoke a licence and put a lender or broker out of business.

Sir Gordon says: "A system based on cure alone is inherently less effective than one based on prevention and cure: action can only be taken when considerable harm has been done to consumers."

"There is evidence that a small minority of financial brokers act irresponsibly in promoting loans. Not being the lender themselves and being concerned primarily with their commission, they have little incentive to ensure that the borrower will be able to keep up repayments."

The Consumers' Association is suggesting that instead



Concern at licensing proposals: Sir Gordon Borrie

of reducing the number of businesses that need to be licensed, the Government should increase the fees credit businesses pay so that more resources can be put into policing the system.

The Finance Houses Association, which represents many of the leading lenders in the personal loan market, has not opposed the scrapping of licences for brokers in its submission.

Mr Neil Grant, director of the FHA, says that the licences are not being properly policed at present so the FHA can sympathize with the need to change the system.

Maria Scott

Time to invest in 10% bonds

While home owners wait in anxious anticipation of higher mortgage rates in the New Year, savers are already beginning to feel the effects of last week's rise in base rates.

Guaranteed income bonds, which guarantee a fixed return on periods of between one and five years, have been given a new lease of life since interest rates started to climb in the summer.

Following the latest base rate increase Chase de Vere Investments has launched a

bond paying 10.1 per cent net of basic rate tax for a year on amounts of £2,000 or more.

New Direction Finance, a wholesale broker whose guaranteed income bonds are underwritten by Credit & Commerce, raised the rate on its one-year bond from 9.5 per cent to 10.1 per cent this week.

But the question for income-seekers is whether to wait for even higher rates. Although some companies have set new rates this week others are yet to make a

decision. Mr Kevin Mills, a director of independent advisers Hargreaves Lansdown, believes investors should consider locking at least part of their capital into rates of 9.5 per cent and above now becoming available.

Those who are happy to take a one-year bond should certainly consider the 10 per cent plus ones now on offer.

There may well be more to come, he agrees, but it is worth taking advantage of rates of around 10 per cent.

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Name(s) _____
 Address _____ Postcode _____
 Signature(s) _____



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Family Assurance free pension offer

The Family Assurance friendly society is launching a free pension. "Rebate-only" personal pensions require contributors to put in no more than the incentives available from the Government to encourage people to contract out of Serps - the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme.

For people who agree to contract out of Serps, the rebates on National Insurance Contributions, tax relief and the special incentive bonus can add up to a tidy sum for starting a pension.

On Line redrawn

National Westminster Bank has revamped its On Line account for teenagers. The account now comes with new free gifts - a wallet and pen and a mini electronic personal organizer. The weekly limit on withdrawals from cash dispensers is up from £25 to £30. The minimum to open an account is £10.

LIT group expands

LIT Holdings, the financial services group, has expanded in the personal financial services market this week with two separate transactions. It made a £24.5 million agreed bid for BES sponsor Johnson Fry two days before the Levitt Group, 25 per cent owned by LIT, announced a joint venture which will enable it to launch unit trusts and manage pension funds.

Marrying up tax

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, intended his Budget changes in the organization of maintenance payments to deter marriage break-up, he has probably succeeded, according to Gamlens, a firm of London divorce lawyers. It has just produced a guide to divorce, explaining the loss of tax relief on maintenance payments resulting from petitions filed before March 15. Copies of the Gamlens Divorce Guide 1988/89 are available free from Gamlens, PO Box 374, 3 & 4 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

Advising women

National and Provincial Building Society is launching a financial advice service for women. It has recruited a panel of professional women, chaired by Miss Jean Denton, deputy chairman of the Black Country Development Corporation, to advise on the service. Seminars for women will be held by the society throughout the country and it expects to launch a telephone information service next year.

PEP pressure grows as Barclayshare quits

Pressure on the Chancellor to improve the rules for personal equity plans heightened this week after Barclayshare announced it was withdrawing from the market.

This comes barely a month after the TSB said it would also be pulling out.

The problem is continuing frustration over the complexity of PEP rules and dismal sales in a dull market. To a certain extent, PEPs have also suffered from the reduction in tax rates - lower taxes mean less incentive to invest in tax-saving schemes.

Barclayshare has sold only 3,500 plans this year, against 15,000 last year. It says it is deferring a decision on whether to introduce a PEP in 1989 and is hoping the Chancellor will announce significant improvements to the system in the Budget.

Mr Gavin Oldham, chief executive of Barclayshare, is lobbying for simplification of the rules and for changes in the way tax relief is given.

At present, investors receive complete tax relief from income and gains, but only if they hold the PEP for at least one calendar year.

Mr Oldham believes investors ought to be able to set up conventional, widely spread and balanced portfolios within a PEP but that they ought to



will have to be some reasonably fundamental changes before we go back," says Mr Barry Bateman, the Fidelity managing director.

Framlington did have a scheme this year but is not planning anything in 1989 unless there are changes. It has offered PEPs investing in unit trusts and the ceiling for contributions to these is £540 a year, which is simply not enough, says Framlington, to make the plans attractive or viable.

Other groups, however, are soldiering on.

Save & Prosper has decided it will launch a PEP next year, as will the Bradford & Bingley Building Society, the Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Bank. All are united, however, in the belief that improvements are sorely needed.

These range from a big increase in the £3,000-a-year limit on contributions for share-based PEPs, to tax relief on contributions and simpler administration.

With the withdrawal of another leading player from the PEP market, managers are increasingly confident that the Government will restructure the schemes. The Treasury has been canvassing the views of management groups.

Maria Scott

Sun rises on Eastern trusts

UNIT TRUST PERFORMANCES

Offer to bid with income reinvested to 1.12.88

TOP 10	
Abtrust Far East Emerg Econom	149.7
Abtrust Pacific	149.3
MIM Britannia Japan Performance	148.2
Thornton Far Eastern Opportn	142.8
Lazard Japan & Pacific Growth	142.1
MIM Britannia Japan Smaller Cos	141.2
S&P UK Smaller Cos Growth	140.5
Scott Equitable FT Far East	138.5
MIM Britannia South East Asia	138.4
TR Japan Growth	137.6

BOTTOM 10	
Gartmore Gold Share	69.1
MAG Gold & General	69.0
NM Schroder Gold	68.4
Target Gold	66.5
Royal Trust PPT Gold Share	65.4
Gartmore Australian	63.0
MIM Britannia Gold	62.9
S&P Exploration	57.8
Waverley Australasian Gold	57.0
Henderson Gold	55.3

Source: Mirostat

The Japanese and Far Eastern markets are booming away with Eastern trusts at the top of both the one-year and one-month unit trust statistics.

Mr Hugh Young, the Far Eastern investment manager of Abtrust, scored a double with his trusts taking first and second place in the one-year figures.

Both funds have portfolios which have remained essentially the same as before the stock market crash.

"People recognize the Far East as the most dynamic growth area," says Mr Young.

But for these high-risk trusts, he has been investing outside the obvious areas such as Japan and Hong Kong, and putting money into Thailand, Taiwan and Australia.

There is also a uniformity about the bottom of the charts.

Over one year the gold funds have done particularly badly. Whereas over the past month the bottom of the league is dominated by smaller American companies.



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But remember, past performance is not always a guide to the future: the price of shares and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount invested. Investing regularly through our Savings Scheme has the added advantage of sparing you the critical decision of when to buy the shares and you can invest as little as £25 per month. Alternatively you can pay-in lump sums of £250 or more whenever you like. The Throgmorton Trust Savings Scheme means you avoid the usual red tape involved in buying shares and because of the scheme's low dealing charges, more of your money goes into your investment. Find out more by filling in the coupon and returning it to: Throgmorton Investment Management Limited, FREEPOST, London EC2B 2TN.

The Throgmorton Trust Savings Scheme

Source: MICROPOL. *Compound annual rate. †Share price total return all income reinvested, figures based on mid market prices. The cost of buying and selling shares must be taken into account. Invested by Throgmorton Investment Management Limited, a member of IBSRO. Throgmorton Investment Management Limited, FREEPOST, LONDON EC2B 2TN. I would like to receive more information on the savings scheme.

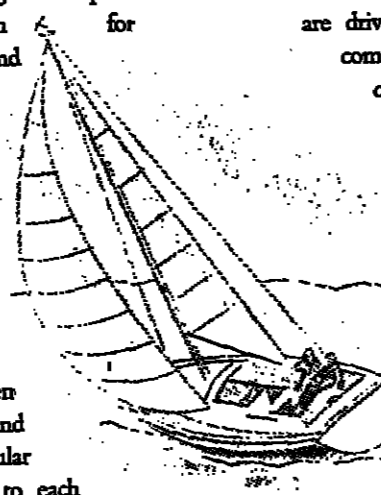
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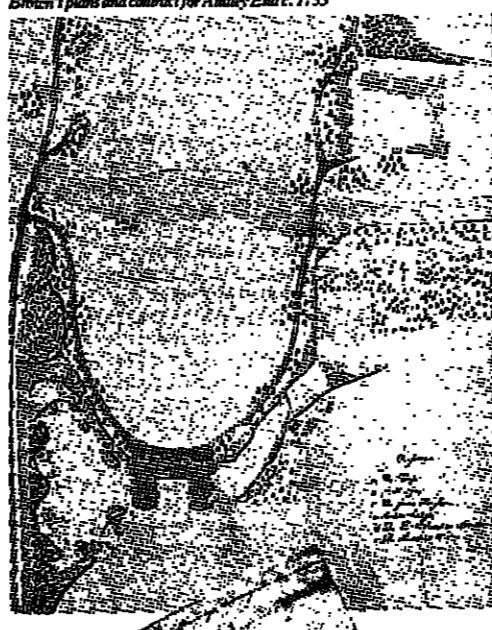
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Planning



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"Placemaking, and a good English Garden depend entirely on principle and have very little to do with fashion; for it is a word that in my opinion disgraces Science wherever it is found".
Lancelot "Capability" Brown in a letter, 1775
Capability Brown's principles in planning for "Placemaking, and a good English Garden" are reflected in Capel-Cure Myers' views on investment management.



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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information, organized into columns for various categories like 'ASSET UNIT TRUST MANAGERS', 'CENTRAL BOARD OF PRINCIPALS', 'UNIT INVESTMENT MANAGERS', etc. Each entry includes company names, share prices, and performance metrics.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table listing unlisted securities with columns for company names, share prices, and other financial data.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table showing foreign exchange rates for various currencies, including Sterling, Dollar, and others.

MONEY MARKETS

Table detailing money market rates, including Treasury bills, discount rates, and other financial instruments.

THIRD MARKET

Table listing third market trading data for various securities.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing investment trusts with their respective share prices and performance indicators.

EURO DEPOSITS

Table showing Euro deposit rates for various banks and currencies.

BULLION

Table listing bullion prices for gold, silver, and other metals.

COINS

Table listing coin prices for various countries.

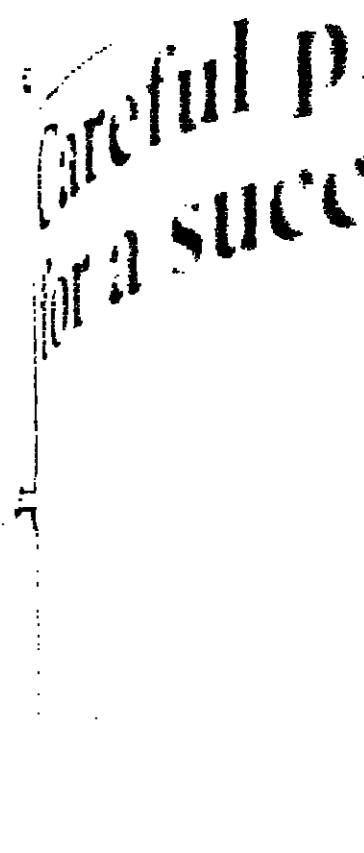
LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table listing London financial futures contracts, including FT-SE 100, Treasury bonds, and other derivatives.

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Advertisement for 'STUDIOS, APARTMENTS, VILLAS, CHATEAUX & ISLANDS IN THE SUN', promoting real estate opportunities.

Advertisement for 'THE TIMES CLASSIFIED', featuring the phone number 01-481 4000.



FAMILY MONEY

Careful planning is essential for a successful second start

Traditionally, retirement has been regarded as synonymous with leisure, a time to rest after an active working life. But, mainly due to the growth of the occupational pension, more people are taking early retirement to start a second, self-employed career.

"In the 1950s and 1960s, the likelihood of a person leaving their job early was not high because the pension arrangements made it difficult," says Mr Bernard Ring, general secretary of the Pre-Retirement Association.

Today, it is easier to take a pension from job to job, especially in the public sector, and to make up for lost years with extra voluntary payments.

Mr Michael Miller, for example, who graduated as a mature student at 27, opted to make extra contributions to cover his student years. A university careers adviser, Mr Miller intends to freelance as a careers counsellor.

As Mr Roy Faust, an independent financial adviser who retired early from careers guidance at university and now specialises in advising on early retirement, said: "As soon as you leave a company pension scheme, your family is vulnerable because although you have a pension, you have lost your life insurance cover which goes with it."

In some pension schemes, the cover may be as much as four times the salary. The chances of replacing that life insurance, he adds, may well be diminished because of one's age or state of health.

He also points out that if the person taking early retirement dies, then the surviving spouse is usually left with half the deceased partner's pension.

Because of this he suggests that both partners build up their own pension rights. A private pension plan is tax-efficient since contributions receive tax relief at the top rate, and it is secured in a tax-exempt fund.

"The important thing is to think about the family as a whole," he said. Taking early retirement also means losing company sick pay. Health insurance protects the family

in the event of permanent incapacity but the premiums may well be high for an older person.

Although the pension may be proofed against cost of living increases, it cannot miraculously expand to keep up with a general increase in real earnings.

Mr Miller does not leave his Sheffield University post until April 1, 1990, but he has already prepared a meticulous financial strategy. If everything goes according to plan, he expects to be better off as a private consultant, despite working fewer days a week and taking longer holidays.

His pension from his careers guidance post comes to £7,000 a year or three-eighths of his salary of £19,200 a year. The pension he will receive at 50 represents 29 years' service and includes six and a bit years' enhancement. In addition, he will receive a lump sum of £24,000 as part of his retirement package. The investment income he expects from the £24,000 is £2,000. Thus, taking into account pension plus dividends, he will be £10,000 a year worse off the day he retires.

However, once he leaves the university, his outgoings will reduce substantially. He is using his run-up to retirement to clear two substantial loans for house improvements by increasing the monthly repayments. Both will be paid off when he retires, leaving him nearly £300 a month in pocket. In addition, his superannuation of £101 a month will cease as will the additional voluntary contributions he was making to his pension of £44 a month. Finally, his national insurance payments will drop from £96 to £20 a month. He has reduced his drop in income when he retires from £10,000 to £5,000 a year.

The financial commitments he will be left with every month are the mortgage (£210), rates (£103), gas (£31), electricity (£33), telephone (£16), and water (£19).

As Mr Miller has planned it, even if he does not earn a penny from his new business, his family would not have to



When Mrs Sheila Tyson (pictured above) left teaching at the age of 50 to run a publishing business with her daughter, an inheritance made the prospect of stepping into the great unknown easier.

But she is adamant that if she had had only a £2,500 pension a year and £40 a week Enterprise Allowance for the first year, she would still have left teaching. Without the inheritance, she would have supplemented her pension by private coaching.

Friends tell her they would do the same but for losing their pension rights. "Selling out these last years when you have

the vigour for something else and wait until you're 60?" she asks rhetorically. "Forget it."

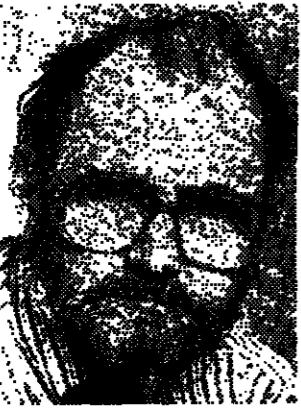
Now that her daughters are grown up, Mrs Tyson says she is enjoying her first freedom for years. "Of course you can't turn your back on the finances of it," she says. "But when I hear people say they would be afraid of a drop in their lifestyle, you have got to measure what you value in that lifestyle."

"If you take expensive holidays twice a year, you are paying for that with your lifeblood in many ways, working every evening and weekend."

The idea for the Potter University Guides which she publishes from home with her daughter came from her experience of helping sixth-formers at Saddleworth, Greater Manchester. She felt the existing guides did not offer an independent view.

She and her daughter Philippa, aged 26, who had only recently graduated from Cambridge, visited every university in England and Wales, reflecting the view of "a young graduate with one foot still in the university world and that of the anxious mother wanting to know where her off-spring was going."

Benefits of musical chairs



Mr Mike Routh, aged 54, (pictured left) has swapped his chair in the staff-room as head of the English department at a Sheffield comprehensive school for a piano stool. He now gives private piano lessons.

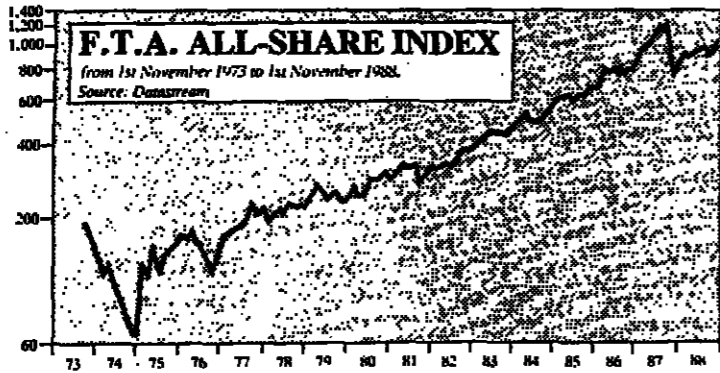
When he took early retirement two years ago he received a generous pension settlement since Sheffield Education Committee offered 10 years' enhancement as an inducement to shed staff. He left the school with half his senior teacher's salary, which was

virtually what he would have received at 65.

His wife Brenda works part-time which helps to supplement the household income. One unexpected bonus from early retirement is that the parental contribution to the university grant for one of his children is much lower.

He is also earning a small income from giving the piano lessons. Indeed, his reason for leaving teaching was to spend more time playing the piano—he plays with a small ensemble.

Peter Morris



WHEN'S THE BEST TIME TO INVEST?

Quite obviously, the best time to invest in the stock market is when prices are low — after a fall. Because, as a glance at the graph shows, each fall has been followed by a rise. And the overall market trend over the medium to long term has been up. The difficulty is in identifying exactly the right time to invest.

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over the same period. However you should remember that past performance is not a guide to the future and the price of units can go down as well as up.

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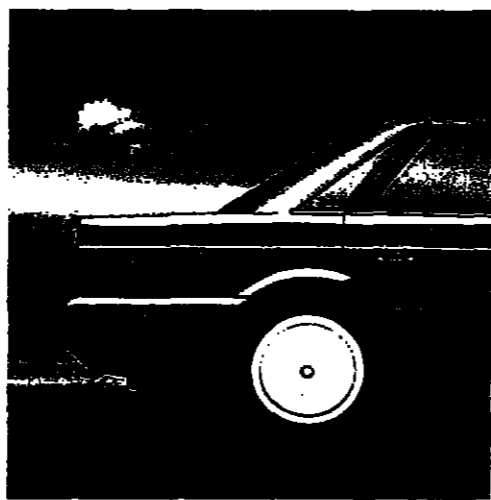
It's undoubtedly extravagant. As Motor magazine observed, the 820e has an "overt touch of plushness absent in many of its rivals."

It shows even in the little luxuries on the 820e. To soothe and amuse, for example, there's a security coded hi-fi system with no less than 6 speakers.

A sunroof is standard (as on all new Rover 800's) along with power steering, central locking and electric front windows.

The driver's seat is adjustable for height and lumbar support. There are remotely adjustable door mirrors plus remote releases for the boot and fuel flap.

And these contemporary conveniences are complemented in Rover tradition by tinted glass, burr walnut veneer and seats as wide as in the 800 flagship, the Sterling.



118 brake horsepower. (That's 120PS.)
And it won't break the bank.

Yet an 820e costs just over £13,000. So it's hardly an extravagance. Especially when you compare the more expensive, somewhat more basic Mercedes 190E.

Compare its rivals too, for performance. The BMW 520i is also more expensive than an 820e, but not nearly as quick. This fuel injected Rover can do 0-60 mph in 10.0 seconds. (The BMW takes 11.6 seconds.) And in the right conditions, it has a top speed of 119 mph.

Yet it's still economical. At motorway cruising speeds, the 820e can travel over 540 miles on a single tank. That's further than the whole of the M5 and M6.

It's on such long hauls that the 820e reveals its true Rover qualities. Autocar took one 650 miles from London to Stuttgart. Their 820e whisked them there "in near perfect comfort at a steady 110 mph on the autobahn."

With all this, it's not too surprising that the 820e is seen as a company directors' car. This is flattering for us at Rover, but a little puzzling considering its price.

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- GIANTS OF SKIING 46,47
SPORTS BOOK 49
RACING 50, 51
RORY UNDERWOOD 52

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3 1988

Graham at a point of no return

By Clive White

In common with several thousand others, George Graham, the Arsenal manager, must have come away from Upton Park in midweek a puzzled man...

doesn't mean we're out of the race. We're keeping a nice equilibrium at the club. It used to be said that the worst time to play Liverpool was immediately after one of those rare defeats...



All smiles: but Graham knows Arsenal's match against Liverpool tomorrow is critical to their championship challenge

Pontypool out of Cup after breach of rules

By Owen Jenkins

Pontypool, the Welsh club champions, have become the first major Welsh club to be eliminated from the Schweppes Cup competition for fielding an ineligible player...

Merger slowdown occupies athletes

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

The annual meeting of the Amateur Athletic Association in London today promises to be lively, with Bill Evans reading an interim report on his draft constitution for a British Athletics Federation...

ARSENAL v LIVERPOOL IN THE EIGHTIES

Table listing Arsenal vs Liverpool matches from 1980 to 1983, including dates, venues, and scores.

Molby to stay at Liverpool

By Ian Ross

Jan Molby, the Danish international, is to remain with Liverpool despite spending six weeks in prison...

Waiting for snow

From Iain Macleod, Val d'Isère

The moans and groans could be heard almost immediately the "circus" came to town. Just down the road, two of the four opening Cup races scheduled last weekend for Val Thorens had to be moved...

Hlasek is too accurate for the Master in the Garden

From Richard Evans, New York

If he goes on like this, Jakob Hlasek will be joining William Tell in Swiss mythology. Except there is no doubting the reality of Hlasek's tennis achievements over the past five weeks when, almost without exception, he has been able to shoot the apple off opponents' heads with unerring accuracy...

happiness as he walked over to face the large international press corps. "I just felt so relaxed the whole match, it was meredible."

since the final of the US Open. "I think I have played 30 matches that have gone to three sets and have won 18 of them," Hlasek said revealingly. "So even when I got behind in the third set, I still felt I could win."

Soviets sitting pretty

Melbourne - Mass defections from the Federation Cup have left top seeds, the Soviet Union, sitting pretty to win the women's team tournament for the first time.

The Soviets, who meet Yugoslavia in their opening round on Sunday, are hoping to become only the sixth nation to win the cup in its 25-year history.

With Mats Wilander beating Leonts in straight sets and Stefan Edberg repeating his Wimbledon triumph over Boris Becker, it means that this quartet's group is still wide open with all four players having won one victory apiece.

UEFA speaks out on drug test cases

By John Goodbody

UEFA, the European governing body, yesterday entered the controversy over the English footballers who have not been sanctioned over positive drug tests for the stimulant ephedrine, because the Football Association (FA) accepted the players' explanation that the drug was contained in medicaments for colds.

He added that if any English player were to take such a medicament during a European competition then he would face suspension. He points out that last season, Fontolan, of Verona, tested positive in the UEFA Cup quarter-final after taking a substance, not ephedrine, in a medicament for a cold. The stimulant in question was banned by UEFA but not by the Italian Federation.

January ticket sale

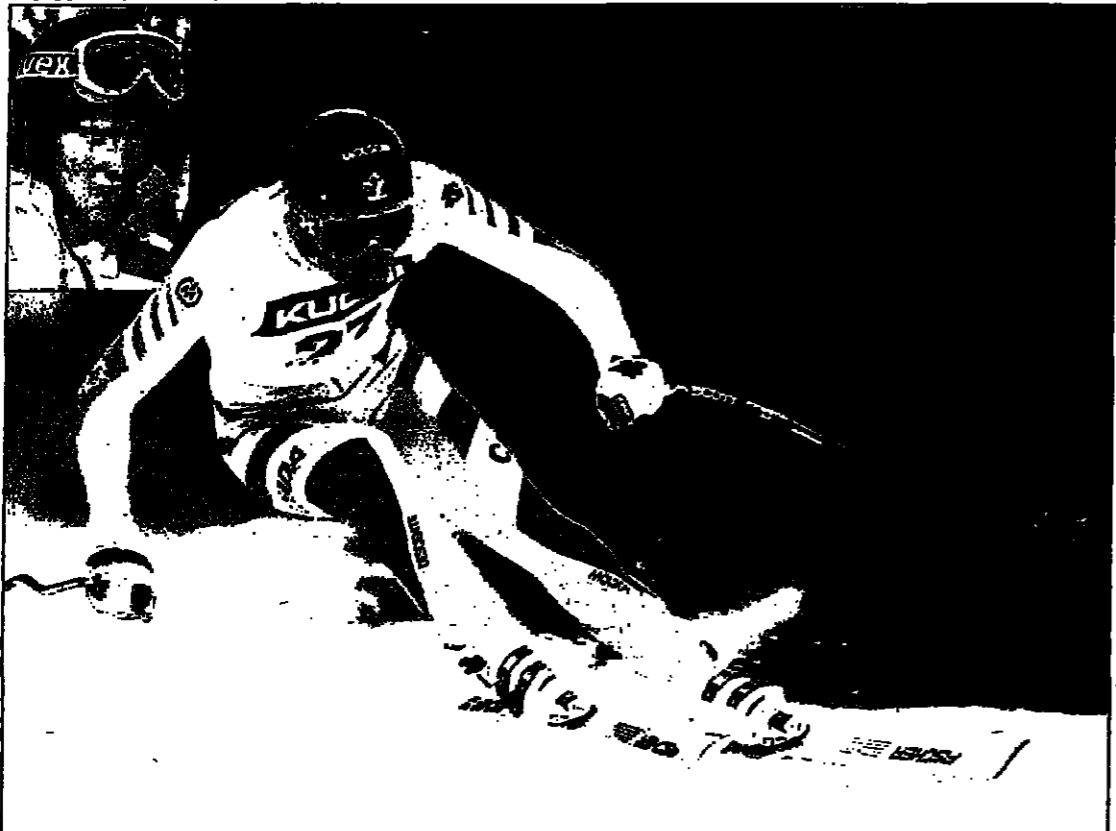
Rome (AP) - The organizers announced yesterday that 2.6 million tickets for the finals of the 1990 World Cup football tournament will go on sale abroad in January and in Italy a month later.

lure (approx £20) for the cheapest seats in Cagliari, Udine and Palermo, where three matches will be played. The highest is 650,000 lire for the best seats in Naples, which is hosting five games, including a semi-final.

Advertisement for QUALCAST HOVER-SAFE OWNERS with product image and detailed information.

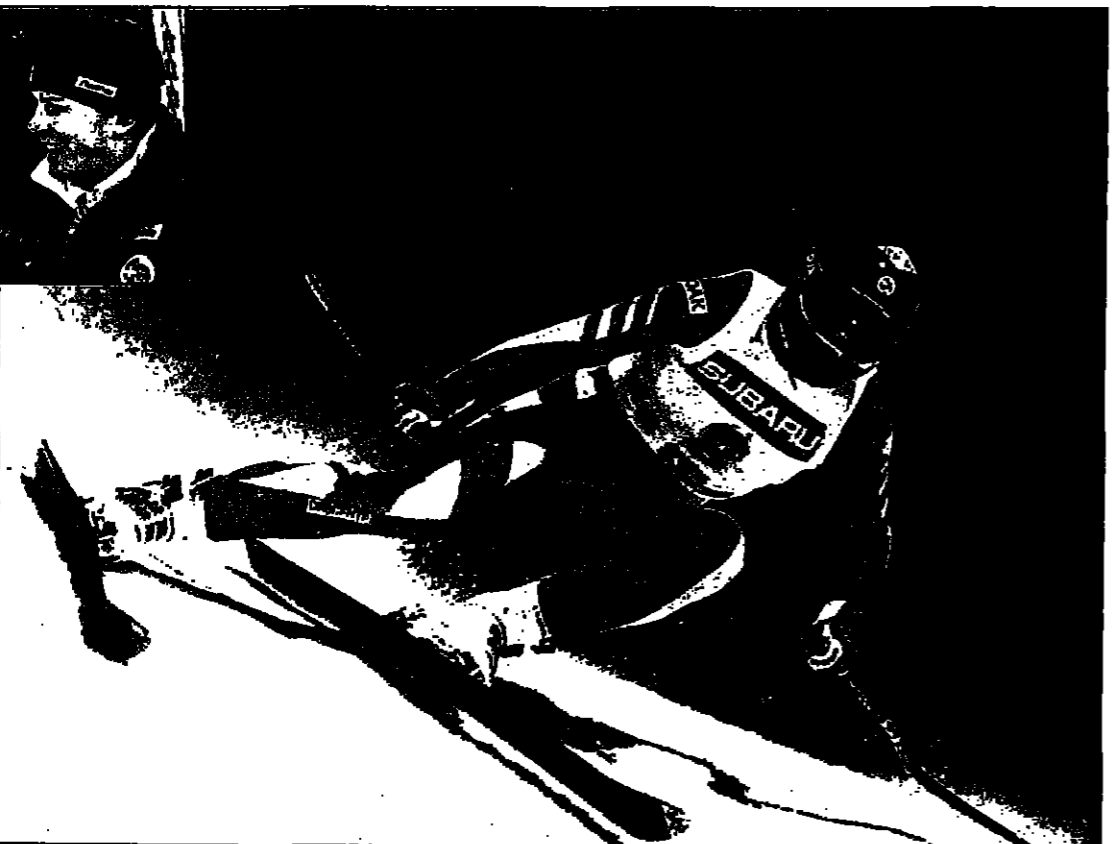
Going rapidly downhill: skiing's

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALLSPORT



Crazy Canuck: Rob Boyd of Canada landed on his head last year, has high hopes for the World Cup this year

Serene Swiss: Pirman Zärbrigen, current champion, says God protects him when he hurtles down mountains



Fast lady: Michela Figini, defending woman's champion, says of the dangers, 'One bad turn is all it takes ...'

Peter the great: Peter Müller, favourite to retain the world championship title, is Zärbrigen's deadliest rival

The ultimate test of skier and mountain starts this weekend.

Iain Macleod reports

There are few more stirring or awe-inspiring sights in sport than a skier hurtling at speeds of more than 60mph on a precipitous two-mile downhill course. Downhill skiing attracts a special breed. But however good the technique, however fine the co-ordination of mind and body, it requires only a momentary lapse of concentration for all to go awry. The lucky ones escape with bruises.

This weekend the supreme test of skiing-man versus mountain starts in Val d'Isère, when the world's best downhill racers join season-long combat for the coveted World Cup title. The extended joust, the most dangerous competition in the sport, will take the skiers on a tour of the jagged peaks of two continents: the Old World in December and January, the North American resorts in February.

There is an added attraction in the shape of the world championships in Vail, Colorado, this season. But for many skiers the financial reward from a world title in Vail will be secondary to the satisfaction of winning the gruelling campaign for World Cup supremacy.

Downhill racers have long been characterized as wild men with unconventional lifestyles. Yet the present World Cup and Olympic champion, Pirman Zärbrigen, is a quiet, deeply religious man of almost boyish innocence.

Having won every major honour and amassed earnings of about £1.5 million, he speaks with heartfelt sincerity when he claims God protects him each time he hurtles down the side of a mountain.

Zärbrigen lives with his family in the small village of Saas Almagell in the Valais

Continued on facing page

For me, it was **NICKLAUS'** fifth win in '75; in probably the greatest **MASTERS** of all time.

OK, sure, but the real turning point in golf was **JACKLIN'S BRITISH OPEN** victory at **LYTHAM**.

How can you ignore **SEVE'S** brilliant performance in the '84 **OPEN** at **ST. ANDREWS**?



Some CLASSICS are beyond debate.



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CRICKET: WEST INDIES CAPITALIZE ON A CATALOGUE OF FIELDING ERRORS

Australia rue early misses as Richards pounces

From John Woodcock, Perth

Australia had a fine chance to take an advantage over West Indies when the second Test match started yesterday...

The West Indians, too, did play extremely well, their good fortune notwithstanding...

Richards' first 50 was too easy, not to say reckless, for this to be one of his more memorable innings...

By getting to the tenth over before being leg before to Hughes, aiming to leg, Haynes' contribution was not negligible...

The chances were really not very difficult, but no one seemed surprised to see them dropped. Boon's carried quite comfortably as he fell forward...

They don't call it catching here these days. Bobby Simpson, Australia's coach, refers to his side as having been practicing their 'aerial work'...

It was being said last night that Australia brought their troubles upon themselves by leaving out McDermott...



Legging it: Greenidge books Dodemaide to the boundary

Smith has answer to Ayub's wiles

From Javed Akhtar, Hyderabad

New Zealand recovered from a precarious position courtesy of an unbroken stand of 137 runs for the seventh wicket...

Although watchful, Greatbatch rarely let a loose delivery go unpunished. Most of his eight boundaries were struck through the covers...

Greatbatch was put down by Ayub from the first ball he faced and again when on three. He again escaped when on 57 when he made a meal of the easiest of stumpings off Hirwani...

Wicketed by Ayub, Smith began the side with his first ball giving to his right, holding a return chance from Wright who made 17...

RUGBY UNION: MANY CLUBS GIVE TWICKENHAM THINK TANK SCANT ATTENTION

Diplock the only Welsh new cap

By David Hands

Richard Diplock, who joined Bridgend this season and made an immediate impression with his hard, direct running...

The disappointment of that showing extends particularly to the fact that he has not yet put outside the half backs...

Webbe has been named on the right flank. He has not played for Bridgend for a fortnight because of a knee injury...

Devereux, who missed the first two months of this season with a finger injury...

Wales: A Clwyd (Swansea); G M C Webb (Bridgend); M G Pung (Cardiff); A Jones (Cardiff); D Jones (Bridgend); J Davies (Llanelli); J A Jones (Swansea); M Griffiths (Newport); G Thomas (Cardiff); D Jones (Cardiff); R G Collins (Cardiff); D N Walker (South Wales Police); R L Jones (Cardiff); J G Jones (Cardiff); P T Thomas (Newport); B Bowen (Swansea); J Jones (Cardiff); K H Phillips (Newport); R Phillips (Newport).

Bath reveal the method that makes them tick

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Bath, whose playing record both this season and over the last four years makes them England's leading club...

Upon the initiative of Don Rutherford, the RFU technical administrator, the Bath coaching panel...

It was quite a surprise that the RFU that 12 of the 36 clubs concerned - five each from the first and third divisions and two from the second - were represented either very briefly or not at all...

Wales: A Clwyd (Swansea); G M C Webb (Bridgend); M G Pung (Cardiff); A Jones (Cardiff); D Jones (Bridgend); J Davies (Llanelli); J A Jones (Swansea); M Griffiths (Newport); G Thomas (Cardiff); D Jones (Cardiff); R G Collins (Cardiff); D N Walker (South Wales Police); R L Jones (Cardiff); J G Jones (Cardiff); P T Thomas (Newport); B Bowen (Swansea); J Jones (Cardiff); K H Phillips (Newport); R Phillips (Newport).

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Rutherford first class "absolutely first class" Bath's presentation which fell under seven heads...

It has long been obvious that Bath's clinical approach to the club has for often been a success...

It was quite a surprise that the RFU that 12 of the 36 clubs concerned - five each from the first and third divisions and two from the second - were represented either very briefly or not at all...

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Chance for North expected to devour Midlands to impress

By Alan Lorimer

Scotland play the first of this season's 10 games against Italy tomorrow in L'Aquila in the knowledge that since the series began in 1985 they have won all three matches...

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Wallabies end with Italian test

From Chris Thau Rome

Australia finish their European tour with an international against Italy in Rome today...

After their credible display in the World Cup, the Italians are a team to watch in the Olympic stadium...

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After their credible display in the World Cup, the Italians are a team to watch in the Olympic stadium...

Proud record at stake

His place goes to John

It will be a difficult match for Ulster as they face the provincial title irrespective of the outcome...

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British lose advantage of home ride

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The best international field ever to race in Britain poses problems for tomorrow's Fairytale Nations Cup...

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Match haunted by violence

By Keith Macklin

Fingers will be crossed all round Naughton Park this afternoon during the John Player Special Trophy quarter-final game...

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FOR THE RECORD

Table containing sports news and results for various events, including football, basketball, and other sports.

TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

Table containing team news for various sports, listing players and their roles.

British lose advantage of home ride

The best international field ever to race in Britain poses problems for tomorrow's Fairytale Nations Cup...

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Advertisement for Nabisco Masters Doubles, featuring a tennis racket and promotional text.

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SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK

A jockey's guide to diplomacy

Steeplechasing is fraught with danger, and not just on the course. As Peter Scudamore, four times champion jockey, explains, owners need careful handling too

I walk into the parade ring for the first ride of the day, and I have an owner who smirks knowingly and confides: "This one will win." I sigh inwardly and try to remain impassive. I have heard it so often before, and such exaggerated confidence is usually the prelude to a shattering disappointment for all concerned. I take no notice now whenever an owner or a trainer says something along those lines; I have never yet ridden a sure thing and I don't suppose I am ever likely to. Those who brag that their horses are 'certainties' are invariably covering up their own insecurity and seeking a show of reassurance from the jockey. I'm afraid I no longer oblige. The most I like to hear in the way of encouragement before a race is something more modest such as: "This one jumps well and has a really good chance."

The majority of owners will have a punt on their horse, whether in fun, interest or serious belief. There is, however, a difference between the average man having a modest £10, £20 or even £50 on his horse and the genuine gambling owner — the man who has assessed that this will be his day and has staked a fortune, which frequently he cannot afford. Every jockey will occasionally be confronted by this predicament. When it does happen, it is assuredly best to be unaware of it until the race is over.

There are, of course, gamblers who cannot resist telling their jockey, while standing in the parade ring, exactly how much money they have invested in his abilities. With some this is mere bravado, with others a cover for their nerves or their underlying lack of confidence. Whatever the motive, it is of absolutely no help to the poor jockey, who has enough to worry about in trying to win the race without the pressure of knowing the extent of the fortune wagered on his success. Inevitably, if the horse is beaten and the owner left virtually broke, the rider will fear that he is somehow to blame for this plight, no matter how good a race he may have ridden. It is much more acceptable when an owner tells his jockey that he has backed his horse each way and is very keen to finish in the frame. That knowledge can be useful: if the horse is tired and has no chance of winning, a jockey may be more inclined to give him a hard race in the hope of salvaging third place if he knows it will please the owner.

Straight after a race we meet up again with the connections, hopefully in the winner's enclosure but more often in that nomadic area, a little detached from the celebrations, where the also-rans unsaddled. It is at this point that the jockey should have something useful to say. I try never simply to tell an owner that his horse is useless. There are jockeys who have done this with brutal frankness, and while some of them have been among the most successful at their job, I am certain that it must have cost them rides. You have to remember that the great majority of jump-racing owners are in the game for fun, for the social side and for something to talk about with their friends. Many of them have utterly false impressions about the prospects of their 'pet' racehorses, but I do not consider it a jockey's duty to disillusion them; if anyone is to do that it should be the trainer. The other factor against dismissing a horse as useless is, of course, that the animal is then sure to prove you a fool the very next time he runs!

Owners who have been disappointed by a poor showing are invariably hoping that the jockey will offer an excuse that they can then pass on to all the friends and family who had been firmly advised that the horse would win. This, of course, can be hard. The truth is that horses are not machines; at whatever level they are competing they cannot win all the time, and the reason for a bad run may simply be that the horse was feeling off-colour.

The furthest I may go in condemning a horse is to say that he is basically slow, that he is a poor jumper, or maybe that he gave me no 'feel', that term beloved by jockeys that is a

mystery to people outside the game but an intangible attribute of all decent racehorses. It is for me to advise the owner and trainer how his horse should best be ridden in future engagements (whether or not I keep the ride), and to suggest what distance, type of course and standard of race to aim for. If I say that a horse "might win a little better at Bangor-on-Dee", that is as close as I can go to implying that the horse is no good. Some owners are horrified by such advice, but all I can say is that it is meant constructively and intended to be mutually beneficial — after all, if I am going to continue riding a particular horse, I want it to be placed in a grade where it has a chance of providing me with a winner.

The opposite danger, in these ritualistic post-mortems, is to tell an owner that he has a world-beater on his hands. Buoyed up by the emotion of a decent win, and deluded by the back-slapping atmosphere, it is all too easy to go overboard in the horse's praise without having had the opportunity to weigh up all the factors (was he a lucky winner? what was the standard of the opposition? is his jumping likely to find him out? — and a dozen other complications). No matter how impressed I may be on jumping off a horse, I always try to keep my feet, and the owner's, on the ground.

There are times, inevitably, when I come back in the full knowledge that I have made a mess of things, that for some reason I have made an error in the course of the race and that, even if it has not cost the chance of victory, it has meant the horse running some way below his optimum. I have tried diligently to cut out my mistakes and I believe that each season I have eliminated a little more margin for error. But racing is all about split-second decisions; jockeys are not robots, and all of us will occasionally ride a stinker of a race. If you are worth your salt you will always know when you have done so, and you will always feel bad about it. I certainly brood when I am aware that I have ridden badly, and I dislike getting off the horse to be told what I did wrong — in my view, it is unnecessary. Days like those end for me with a mood of depression, a thoughtful journey home, a regrettable snappiness with my wife and an evening of self-recrimination. You might think that I have been riding long enough to have got beyond this by now, but I promise you that my depressions are every bit as black as when I started out. Thankfully, it only needs a winner to put me right again.

The biggest jump: from sauna to cold shower

There are presently 44 courses in Britain staging National Hunt racing. They are as diverse, surely, as any comparable group of sporting venues in the world, ranging from the austere and imposing Ascot to the uniquely homespun Cartmel, from the grandeur and atmosphere of Cheltenham to the rustic, welcoming charm of Sedgefield. Peter Scudamore has ridden at 43 of the courses, his single omission being Edinburgh, which was adapted only recently from an all-flat racing course. Of contemporary jockeys, his experiences and sheer volume of rides around the country put him in a unique position to judge and comment upon the good, the bad and the ugly aspects of Britain's racecourse circuit. Here is a reflection of his opinions on courses large and small...

ASCOT

Frankly, I used to detest the place. As a steeplechase course I felt it had grave shortcomings and as a venue for National Hunt racing I found it both soulless and unwelcoming. To my young eyes, the bowler hats on the heads of the gentlemen seemed to have endowed these gentlemen with an arrogance of the most condescending kind; more than once I considered them unnecessarily rude and obstructive to jockeys and trainers going about

It takes a long time for any jockey to establish an identity. The very nature of the job — playing a supporting role to the horses, with features masked as if in camouflage by helmet and goggles — dictates that riders can seldom aspire to the popular fame achieved by the more visible stars of other spectator sports. Very few, either in flat or jumping spheres, ever become public personalities likely to be recognized without their working clothes by anyone outside the inner circle of racing. Success on the racetrack is not in itself a passport to public recognition, as I know from an incident that happened to me a short time ago. I attended a function in my capacity as current champion jump jockey. I was introduced to a complete stranger who, on hearing my name, said: "Scudamore? Oh yes, the jockey — I thought you had curly hair."

Following John Francombe as champion, you will understand, has its frustrating drawbacks as well as its pleasures. I have come to accept, quite without rancour,

that no matter how many times I may win the jockeys' title, or how many major races I may land, that I will not even begin to rate alongside John as a household personality. Some of us are simply not made that way, and no one who does not possess John's rare mix of natural wit and charisma should make the mistake of trying to imitate for effect.

Among the jockeys themselves, respect usually stops short of open admiration. In his era, my father had a tremendous amount of respect for two of his rivals in particular — Fred Winter and Bryan Marshall. He would regularly tell me about their strengths, but in public it would never occur to him to praise them too much because no matter that they were friends, they were still the opposition on the racecourse. Years later, engaged in trying to wrest the championship away from John Francombe, I experienced the same syndrome. Of course, I admired John's riding as much as anyone — but I was not going to say so and hand over any psychological advantage.

I had always been driven by the

urge to prove myself while John and Jonjo were still around. In a sense, I had done it in 1981-82: most racing people said that I was the real champion that year, and John was good enough to make the public gesture which stated that opinion louder than anyone. I raced to 120 winners with a month of the season still to run. I had only to stay fit to be certain of taking the championship from Francombe. But, of course, I didn't. I broke my arm at Southwell at the end of April and had to sit around in mental agony while John travelled the length and breadth of the country to draw level with me and then, in a remarkable show of sportsmanship I am not sure I driving finish. John never had that, at least in his early years, and it was only when I came up against

him as a formidable opponent that I became fully aware of the range of qualities he possessed. In the technicalities of race-riding — putting horses in the optimum position, putting them right as the obstacles, and producing them for the vital burst at the most beneficial moment — he was unrivalled, and surely as good as there has ever been.

I never felt that it was impossible for me to be champion while John was riding, but this was certainly a minority view. Everyone else in the game seemed to accept that he was champion for as long as he wanted to be. He was the senior statesman of the sport, a man apart, living on an entirely different plane to the rest of us. The man in the street with only a passing interest in racing would not have known me — or any other jump jockey for that matter — but everyone knew John, his face, his voice and his achievements.

In a way, his retirement created extra pressure for me. With John out of the way, I immediately felt I ought to be champion, and that if I failed now there would be no excuses left. There was no possible

are adequate considering the buildings are all very old; there are good changing rooms, showers and, most important, a sauna. As I mentioned earlier, I strongly believe that this should be a statutory facility on every course.

PLUMPTON

More than once at Plumpton I have come back to the weighing room with such a sense of frustration that I have begun to wonder just how long my career would have lasted if every meeting were run here. In all probability I would have retired years ago. Courses like this are no stage for jockeys to show their skills; all too often you are in a field of bad horses all travelling too fast for their own or anyone else's good, plenty of them ridden by riders who are either foolish, incompetent or — in some cases — both. One might say that this is not the fault of Plumpton, simply of the horses which run there and those responsible for putting up the jockeys. But I genuinely loathe riding there ever fences. The worst are the first down the hill; indeed, these form one of the major accident black-spots of the country. I seldom get good rides at Plumpton, which might add fuel to my feelings, but I honestly believe it to be one of the most unpleasant riding courses in the south.

NEWBURY

This is my idea of the most impressive track in the country, and is certainly my personal favourite among the major courses. It presents a challenging test of stamina but is a scrupulously fair course where there are seldom any acceptable excuses for defeat. The fences are expertly built and I particularly like the way the ditches are built with banking rather than those intimidating boards in front of them that are favoured by many other courses. Two fences cause problems — the cross fence, farthest from the stands, which is on a downhill gradient, and the final ditch in the straight, where horses are frequently casualties through sheer fatigue. The facilities for jockeys

DONCASTER

I do not often go to Doncaster, and I am not sorry. It is without doubt one of my least favourite racing venues, for a variety of reasons. To deflate any accusations of southern bias, I have to say that I am extremely glad this course is not in the south. It probably suffers, as do certain other courses in the area, from a flat-racing bias — so strong in this case that I have taken to wondering why they bother to stage National Hunt racing at all. There is no feel for the winner game at Doncaster, and

BANGOR

Not long ago, my schedule took me to Kempton Park on one day and Bangor-on-Dee the next. It was like being on two different planets. At Kempton, the facilities for jockeys are grand ones; at Bangor, there is not a grade to describe them. I recall sitting there in between races, looking around me in the



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CHRIS SMITH

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SPRINKLES

GOLF

Historic challenge brings out the best in Crenshaw

From Mitchell Platts Golf Correspondent Melbourne

Ben Crenshaw, a traditionalist through and through, enjoys nothing more than to play on courses of great historical repute...

Card of course table with columns: Hole, Yds, Par, Hole, Yds, Par

Crenshaw, whose performance, however, was temporarily overshadowed by two separate incidents involving compatriots Gordon Brand Jr and Howard Clark...

LEADING SECOND ROUND SCORES table with columns: Australian, Crenshaw, Daves, etc.

Clark, who took 68 for a score of 138, faced the possibility of having a fine of £250 levied against him...

Woosnam is closing

Bophuthatswana (AP) — Ian Woosnam, the defending champion, had a second round of 70 to narrow the gap between himself and the American joint-leaders...

BOWLS

Ackland wins the crown for Wales

From David Rhys Jones, Auckland

After two weeks of surprises caused by windy conditions, rain, mud and a tricky, uneven surface, it was no surprise to be expected that the sixth woman's world championship here should end with surprising results...

SQUASH RACKETS

Counting on Carter to fight the new fight

There is a certain symmetry in the emergence of Paul Carter as winner of the Inter-City national championship at Bristol late on Thursday evening during a week in which Jonah Barrington was confirmed as the Director of Excellence for English squash...

Newmarket's Horseracing Forensic Laboratory opens its doors to George Rae

No substance to doping suspicions

Racing has no more emotive topic than doping. It burns with the implied chicanery of impairing or enhancing performance, of wilfully tailoring a horse's running to fit success or failure...

allocation was £376,000 — but it is also encouraged to take on outside fee-paying work, which added £333,000 last year...

stumped, albeit rarely. About once a year a sample is returned as negative because a substance present in the sample cannot be unequivocally identified...

Pipe rides luck as Torside takes full advantage of gift

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

Martin Pipe's extraordinary domination of the National Hunt season continued at Sandown Park yesterday when a last-second refusal by Sunshine at the final jump presented the hard-riding Torside with the Global Homes Handicap Chase...

Cavvies Clown case to be heard Wednesday

The long-running case of Cavvies Clown will be heard on Wednesday when trainer David Elsworth appears before the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee...

At the time Elsworth said he gives Cavvies Clown a treatment of 19-nortestosterone to remedy a low blood count — which is not illegal — over a month before the Ascot race, allowing her to keep the horse's system fit...

Results from yesterday's three meetings

Sandown Park, Bangor, Southwell

Detailed race results for Sandown Park, Bangor, and Southwell, including race names, winners, and odds.

Idyllic vantage point to savour action

A series of weekly reports on Britain's racecourses

No 14: FONTWELL PARK Fontwell Park is the most delightful of the south's smaller National Hunt courses...

The Good Racecourse Guide

Fontwell is becoming increasingly popular and midweek crowds now average 3,500, with nearer 8,000 people attending the two Bank holiday meetings in May...

Rating

One jockey's cap denotes Awful; two, Borderline; three, Average; four, Very Good; five, Excellent.

Racing next week

MONDAY: Kelso, Worcester. TUESDAY: Leicester, Fontwell Park. WEDNESDAY: Catterick, Huntingdon. THURSDAY: Uttoxeter, Tauris. FRIDAY: Chesham, Doncaster, Devon & Exeter. SATURDAY: Cheltenham, Doncaster, Lingfield Park, Towcester.

THE GOOD RACECOURSE GUIDE

Fontwell is becoming increasingly popular and midweek crowds now average 3,500...

RAPID RACELINE

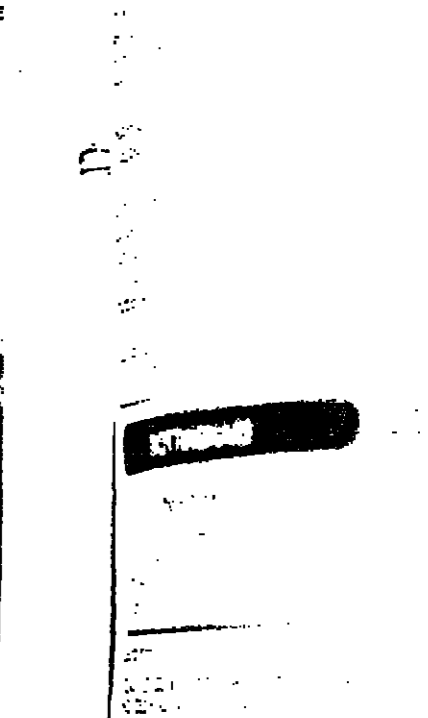
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Fast Results table with columns: Racecourse, Time, Winner, etc.

TIMEFORM RACEVIEW

CALL 0898 168 122 DOGS - MORNING AND AFTERNOON RESULTS CALL 0898 168 103

Desert Oryx serve up a dazzling...



Kilbrin Castle (Kevin Mooney) leads Davy's Weir (Richard Rowe) on his way to victory in Sandown's Crown Chase

Nicholson in fine form with treble

David Nicholson, among the winners at Sandown with Bigsun, completed a treble when Another Coral and Waterloo Boy justified favouritism at Bangor...

Rating

One jockey's cap denotes Awful; two, Borderline; three, Average; four, Very Good; five, Excellent.

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Fast Results table with columns: Racecourse, Time, Winner, etc.

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Childhood of the Champions: Rory Underwood

A swift step to recognition

Rory Underwood recounts his formative years to Mick Cleary



Yet to make his mark at school in Malaysia, aged five, Rory's Malaysian mother, Anne, Rory was born in Middlebrough, where his grandparents lived, but spent the first eight years of his life abroad.

It brings back vivid memories. "I just remember having a great time. The climate was such that we were outdoors most of the day. Our house, which had a huge garden, was the centre for soccer in the evenings when all the local lads would congregate for fairly fierce six-a-side competitions.

Rory also used to spend hours playing football with his father, Ash, himself a talented player, and his brothers, Gary, now 24, and Tony, 20 (who also plays rugby union for Leicester). Away from the football field, he would roam the hills, hunting and walking, or chase the grass snakes out from under his bed. The heat of Malaysia was swapped for the bracing winds of the Pennines when Underwood was aged eight. With his brother, Gary, he was sent to board at Barnard Castle preparatory school, from where he went on to the senior school. It was only then that Underwood started to play rugby.

He has one abiding memory of those early years. The cold. "I remember playing one game, when, as usual, I was freezing out on the wing waiting in vain for the ball to come my way. Of course, if I'd been any good I would have gone looking for it. All I could think about throughout the entire game was the warmth of the gas fire in the school tuck shop."

At the age of 15, Underwood was nothing but a "skinny bag of bones." His latter day hallmark - blistering pace - was, at that time, just emerging. "I was always reasonably quick, but because I was a bit of a wimp and didn't tackle or force myself



In full flow: Underwood shows the poise, power and pace that epitomizes his game

into a game, I wasn't particularly effective."

A new teacher arrived at Barnard Castle. John Oates was young and enthusiastic. He took Underwood aside one day and told him that he had rare talent if only he would believe in himself. It did the trick. Underwood was chosen for the first XV, who promptly won their first game in three years. In his final year, Underwood scored 43 tries in only 15 matches. In the same side was a boy who would become the England stand-off half - Rob Andrew. Neither made any impact on the national schools selectors. Yet both were playing for the full

England side within three years of leaving school.

By nature, Underwood is a very self-effacing type. He remembers being staggered when, aged 17, Middlebrough RFC rang him to play for the second XV. "Middlebrough?" he thought. "They have their results in the paper. I'm not good enough to play for them." He was, and his father, who died when Underwood was 19, spent many an evening driving his son to and from training sessions. It has been a similar tale throughout his career. He thought it was Durham Colts he had been selected for when in fact it was the senior side to play against

Bill Beaumont's Lancashire.

The only time his head was ever in the clouds was when he was dreaming of joining the RAF. It was a dream he had long nurtured, particularly on the frequent journeys back to Malaysia in the holidays. He spent six months as a pewsmith on leaving school before finally joining the RAF.

Rugby international and fighter pilot: the classic portrait of an Englishman. Yet Underwood is proud of his half-Malaysian blood. "They are a lovely people," he says. "Industrious, thorough, and efficient." He pauses and adds: "Perhaps I'm not half-Malay after all."

STUDENT SPORT

Selection for World Games the target

By Mark Herbert

Following a football trial on Wednesday, in which a southern and Welsh college side beat their northern and Scottish counterparts 4-2 at Alsager College in Cheshire, the British Colleges Sports Association (BCSA) has named a representative squad of 18.

The 18 players are due to play two representative fixtures in the new year - against England Under-18 at Lillehall on February 18 and the Universities Athletic Union at Warwick University on February 26. But the greater prize is consideration for the Great Britain team for the World Student Games, which will be held in São Paulo, Brazil, in August 1989.

At Alsager, Conway, one of five West London IHE players in the squad, scored three times for the southern side. Sandell (South London IHE) added the other, direct from a corner. The northern colleges' goals came from Forbes (Trinity) and All Saints (Leeds) and Russell (Jordanhill College, Glasgow).

BCSA's 18 players are: Centre (St Paul's) Mark Chatterton; 10 (St George's) G. Williams; 11 (St George's) M. Jones; 12 (St George's) M. Jones; 13 (St George's) M. Jones; 14 (St George's) M. Jones; 15 (St George's) M. Jones; 16 (St George's) M. Jones; 17 (St George's) M. Jones; 18 (St George's) M. Jones.

Conway, one of five West London IHE players in the squad, scored three times for the southern side. Sandell (South London IHE) added the other, direct from a corner. The northern colleges' goals came from Forbes (Trinity) and All Saints (Leeds) and Russell (Jordanhill College, Glasgow).

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Producing the best results from adversity

By Chris Thau

Visiting Bucharest in winter is a sobering experience. The snow-clad Romanian capital suffers from shortages of food, fuel and electricity. The black ice covering the roads has reduced the public transport to a shambles and private drivers have to spend up to 48 hours in a queue for a tank of petrol.

But, as the city's cynics argue, Romanian sport has an uncanny ability to thrive in adversity. "The greater the hardship the better the results," they say.

The nation's remarkable run of success in sport during the past decade tends to confirm this unconventional appraisal.

In the Los Angeles Olympics - initially without the Soviet Union and East Germany - Romania, with 20 gold medals, was second to the United States in the unofficial medal table.

This year, the 63-strong Romanian Olympic team returned from Seoul with seven gold among its 24 medals in all - earning it eighth place in the ranking table.

Romanian football is thriving and after a few years of decline rugby union is making a comeback.

Paradoxically, while the standard of living has declined, Romania has been producing world-class track and field athletes, gymnasts, rowers and swimmers.

One of the conventional explanations is that in a country affected by endemic shortages, the benefits associated with success in sport provide athletes with an extra incentive to do well. Champions enjoy better food and housing trips abroad and a secure future within the coaching structure of Romanian sport.

However, the true picture is more complex and probably more subtle than that. Although more success in sports has reached Romania progressively since the beginning of the century - the first football match was played between British and German engineers working in the oil industry here in 1905 but it is mainly confined to trotting.

But the Romanians have developed a phenomenal resilience and an unusual capacity to bounce back. Romanian rugby, after a couple of years, has recaptured its pride and poise. France, who began to think that a downgrading of their annual fixture against Romania might be required, have been duly convinced that that would be a mistake.

After the success in Seoul, Romanian sport is now rearing itself for Barcelona in 1992. Various federations work on a four-year plan and naturally, they aim for a bigger haul of Olympic gold. The Romanian public hope that this time they will be able to follow the fortunes of their athletes on television.

For a variety of reasons, ranging from a shortage of hard currency to an attempt to appease Romania's ally, North Korea, the coverage of the Seoul games was bare. Those fortunate enough to have had their television sets fitted with special cables could watch the Olympics on Bulgarian and Soviet networks. With virtually no sport on the three-hour-a-day Romanian television service, children playing football in the streets of Bucharest set their sights on... Bulgarian.

Chris Thau

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

3.0 unless stated

Barclays League	Second division	Third division	Scottish Cup	RUGBY UNION	HOCKEY
First division	NFL LEAGUE	Fourth division	First round	TOSHIBA DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	POUNDTROTCHER NATIONAL
... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...

Fourth division	Scottish Cup	RUGBY UNION	HOCKEY
... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...

RUGBY UNION	HOCKEY
... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...

BARCLAYS LEAGUE	SECOND DIVISION	THIRD DIVISION	SCOTTISH CUP	RUGBY UNION	HOCKEY
... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...

SPORT ON TV

DARTS	AMERICAN FOOTBALL	FOOTBALL	RUGBY SPECIAL	RACING	SNAKE AND GREYS
... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...

ROYAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE	ROYAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE	ROYAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE	ROYAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE
... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...

ROYAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE	ROYAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE	ROYAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE	ROYAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE
... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...

ROYAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE	ROYAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE	ROYAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE	ROYAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE
... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...	... (detailed fixtures) ...

method
am tick

OUTDOOR LEISURE

Net gains in the winter sunshine

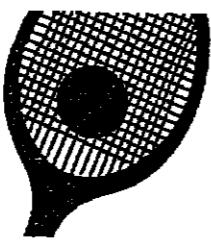
We were a disparate lot, with not much in common apart from a shared desire to continue that British obsession with tennis beyond the two weeks of Wimbledon-watching.

With the help of Roger Taylor, a former Davis Cup player and three times Wimbledon semi-finalist, we were determined to improve our game. As he stretched and bent, 32 bodies, of varying age and suppleness, tried to shadow his exercises, despite protesting groin muscles.

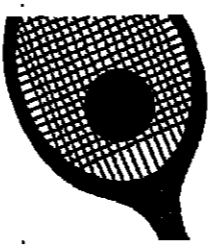
As Roger showed the way, John, the Lloyd's broker; Gary, the financial director of an American chemical company; Suzie and Charlotte, two teenage Yorkshire schoolgirls; Peter, the Midlands tyre manufacturer; myself, and my son, Adam, aged eight, strained to his command.

The lack of facilities in Britain, especially those suitable when winter comes, was a prime reason for my choosing a tennis training week in the more welcoming Portuguese climate at the Roger Taylor Tennis Centre, Val-de-Lobo, in the Algarve.

The prospect of unlimited play in warm October sunshine would be a lure in itself. The programme put together by Taylor also offers a general fitness routine and 15 hours of intensive coaching which aims to provide everyone, from raw beginner to accomplished club player, advice to improve their game.



Peter Davenport
on the Wimbledon
star who helped
polish his skills to



enjoy a late-flowering passion for playing tennis

Now 40 years old, I had never played tennis until a few years ago; at school we were pushed towards team sports such as rugby, football and cricket. Tennis clubs had a "class" image which meant they were not exactly on every street corner in the pit village where I grew up.

It was a chance meeting in Torquay with a talented club player that set off my love affair with the game. He taught me enough basic skills to bring enjoyment from being on court and the desire to improve. Since then I have played almost obsessively, in all weathers and on courts in many parts of the country.

Like any sports enthusiast, you can reach a level of sufficient ability to draw pleasure from your game under your own tuition; at some stage, however, if you are to move beyond that, you need to submit to the more perceptive eye of a professional coach.

Each morning began with a run through the pine woods around the tennis centre, with its 12 courts, half of

them floodlit, led by Julian, a former stockbroker turned tennis coach. A series of exercises to stretch the muscles most needed in the game followed. They are simple to remember and can be done daily at home.

Taylor, a skilled and patient teacher, is assisted by selected coaches and the large group breaks down on a ratio of eight players to one coach. Under the warm sunshine the strokes of the day are demonstrated before being put into practice.

In the five days of the course we covered basic forehand and backhand groundstrokes, a variety of serving techniques, slice, top-spin, volleying at the net, high and low lobs and smashes.

One of Taylor's coaching methods is the use of a video camera to record everyone's efforts. During every morning session each group trooped into a viewing room to see their efforts on the screen. There was no escape.

As often happens, concentrating so hard on the correct way to play makes

your game seem worse than before you arrived. But when you do hit well a stroke that had previously eluded you, the elation is marvellous. For me, learning a sliced second serve, sending the ball swerving away from my opponent's outstretched racket, and changing my grip to improve a backhand that was almost non-existent were the most pleasing benefits.

At the end of the week I think we all gained something which would improve our game; even Adam, the youngest on the course, was particularly pleased that he learned to serve "properly", something it had taken me years to master and which I had singularly failed to teach him. Above all it was, as all sport should be, good fun and a bridge across the barrier of class, age and sex.

It's not going to turn me into a Wimbledon champion, but that wasn't the point. The extra knowledge and professional advice will increase my pleasure from a game I regretfully adopted too late.

And Adam? Well, he has certainly begun to take an indecent pleasure out of thumping the ball past his father!

Tennis training weeks at Val-de-Lobo run throughout the year and range in price from £35 to £165 depending on dates chosen. They include 15 hours' coaching and unlimited court play. Roger Taylor Tennis Holidays will also arrange flights and accommodation, which is, of course, extra



Master class: Roger Taylor coaches a young pupil in the finer techniques of the game

Costa Storm

WEATHER EYE

While most of Britain was dry and sunny last month, the weather in the Mediterranean region was grim. Killer floods in the Barcelona region were followed by torrential rain in the Algarve and the Côte d'Azur and Italy were swept by exceptionally cold weather.

The reason for this topsy-turvy weather was that there was often an anti-cyclone over the British Isles. The effect of this high-pressure area was to divert the depressions that usually dominate our winters.

They thus headed either north over Iceland and down across Scandinavia and eastern Europe to the Adriatic, or south to the western Mediterranean.

This combination of events highlights the fundamental meteorological mechanism: when one geographical region experiences abnormal weather, it is likely that adjacent regions will have equivalent opposite extremes. Because every now and then stationary high-pressure regions tend to form near Britain, it is not that unusual for the Mediterranean to be hit by bad weather while it is settled here.

So these events are in part a reflection of a more basic climatic pattern, that of the weather in the Mediterranean

undergoing a complete shift between the summer and winter halves of the year. From November to April the Mediterranean region is often stormy and sometimes cold. In recent years Athens, Jerusalem, Tunis and the Costa Blanca have experienced at least one heavy snowfall.

This climatological change is so fundamental it is recognized in historical analysis. Fernand Braudel, in his work on the Mediterranean world in the age of Philip II defined winter as the season of peace and plans, when the weather imposed a truce on warring nations both on land and at sea. He cites frequent examples of commanders who mounted campaigns in winters, only to have their expeditions scattered by the winds.

But for those who want to escape the rigours of our winters, there is hope. On average it the Mediterranean is warmer and sunnier than here but not drier. Indeed, exposed areas can be surprisingly wet. Between November and January, Gibraltar and Naples get well over twice as much rain as London, and Corfu has more than three times this figure.

So for those looking for reliable winter sunshine, it could be wise to plan on going further afield.

W. J. Burroughs



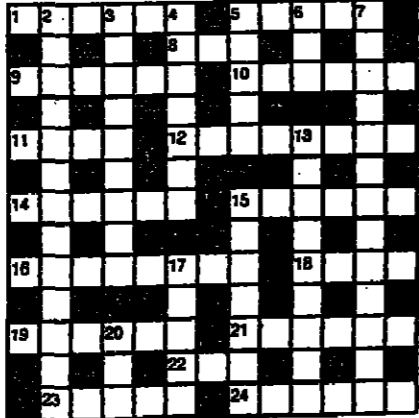
Rained off: Barcelona tennis club in the killer floods

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1736

Prizes of the Collins Concise Dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, December 8. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, December 10.

ACROSS

- 1 Increase with interest (6)
- 5 Wooden shoe (5)
- 8 Check over (3)
- 9 Fuzz (6)
- 10 Haphazardly (6)
- 11 Good (4)
- 12 Devilish (8)
- 14 Stitching (6)
- 15 Ritual (6)
- 16 Frozen state (8)
- 18 Ooze (4)
- 19 Dog house (6)
- 21 Aisleward (6)
- 22 Falseness (3)
- 23 Marily (5)
- 24 Give over (6)



DOWN

- 2 Arc de Triomphe boulevard (6,7)
- 3 Restriction (9)
- 4 Early part of night (7)
- 5 Employees (5)
- 6 Cove (3)
- 7 Canterbury saint (6,1,6)
- 13 Economic depression (9)
- 15 inclined (7)
- 17 Revive in spirit (5)
- 20 Old horse (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1735

- ACROSS: 1 Bunker 4 Ballad 9 Pomfret 10 Leaks 11 Aida 12 Coryphoe 14 Nuclei 15 Walrus 18 Parasite 20 Kara 22 Romeo 23 Invoice 25 Anthem 26 Glances.
- DOWN: 1 Bag 2 Nomadic 3 Firm 5 Alleyway 6 Lash 7 Dyspepsia 8 Stoop 11 Annapurna 13 Genstone 16 Realign 17 Suid 19 Remit 21 Evil 24 Ere.

The winners of prize concise No 1736 are Mrs P. G. Grimham, Vireojorth-Horscliffe, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland and P. Jackson, Boxmoat Close, Wethersfield, Essex.

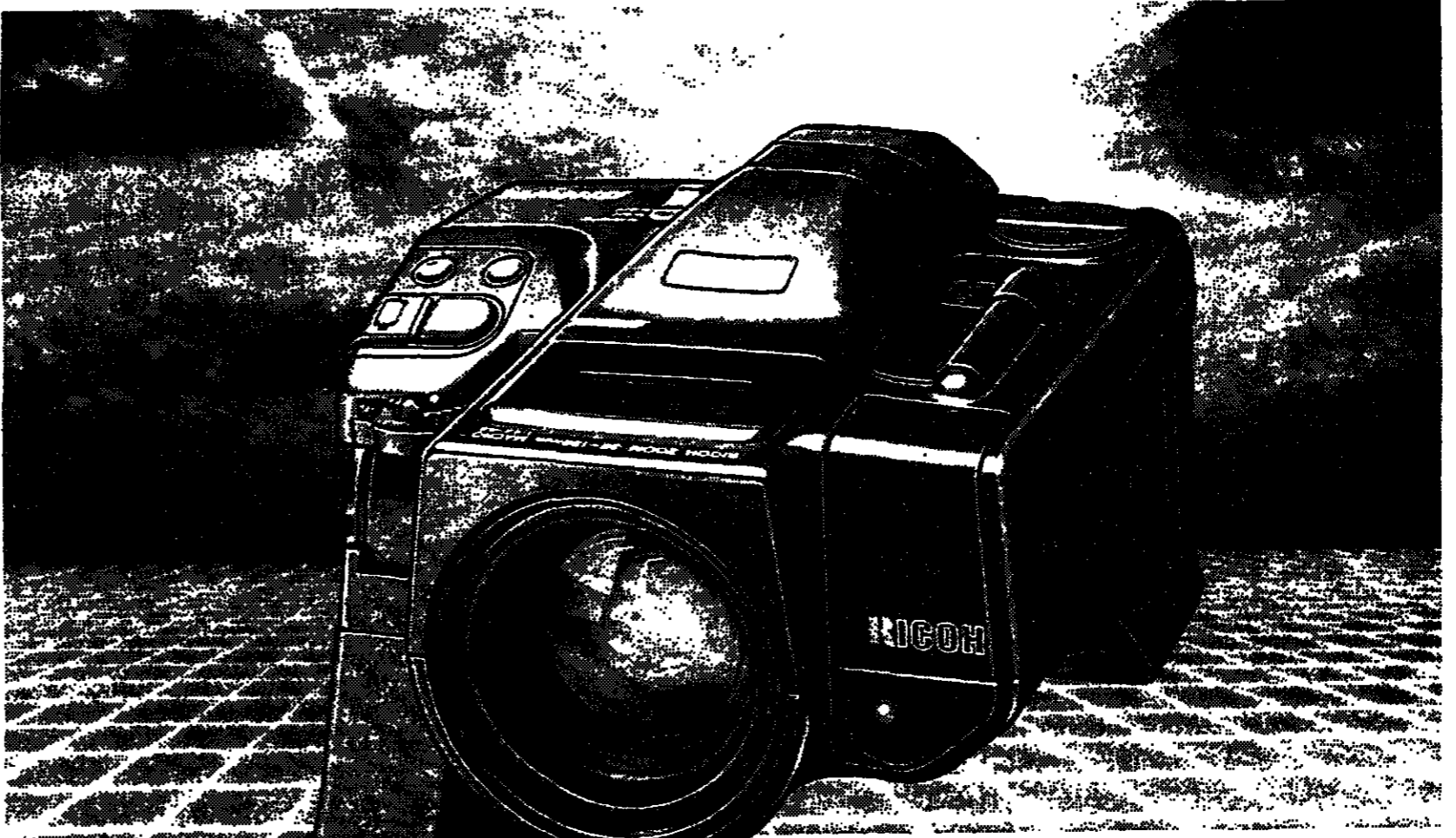
SOLUTION TO NO 1730

- ACROSS: 1 Twinge 5 Album 8 Lug 9 Hegira 10 Angora 11 Nigh 12 Slaggon 14 Age-old 15 Grubby 16 Piercing 18 Exon 19 Sludge 21 Lotion 22 Ace 23 Whorl 24 Strays
- DOWN: 2 Weeping Willow 3 Neighbour 4 Elapsed 5 Again 6 Bag 7 Marine biology 13 Sou-wester 15 Goggles 17 Ideal 20 Doo

Name

Address

THE FUTURE HAS ARRIVED



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"probably the most advanced zoom camera yet" Amateur Photographer 8/10/88



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BRIDGE

The Venetian class in caution

By winning the Open Series of the World Bridge Team Olympiad in Venice, the United States finally broke the hoodoo that had dogged them since the first Olympiad in Turin 28 years ago...

Table with columns W, N, E, S and rows for Berger and Meiri.

Board 54 was one of the most astonishing hands that I have ever watched. USA v Austria, World Olympiad Final, East-West Game, Dealer West.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for West and East.

When Wolff and Deutsch held the North-South cards for the United States, the bidding went like this:

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for West and East.

As backgammon players often say, "beware the early gloat".

Jeremy Flint

The teams which took part in the Open Series of the World Bridge Team Olympiad in Venice:

- USA: Seymour Deutsch, Robert Hamman, James Jacoby, Jerry Mandelkern, Eric Rodwell, Robert Wolff, NPC Dan Morse. Austria: Heinrich Berger, Jan Fucik, Alfred Kueck, Friedrich Kubicek, Wolfgang Meiri, Franz Terranova, NPC Franz Benatti.

Francesca Greenoak tastes 'designer greens'

"Winter saladini" is the term Joy Larkoom invented to describe her tasty combinations of the leaves and stems of uncommon salad greens.

Salad leaf style

Larkoom puts her considerable skills towards trying out an unfamiliar range of cultivated food plants, mainly from Asia, in "British" conditions.

Larkoom finds the gauzy polypropylene "floating cloche" laid over winter lettuce, endive and chicory of enormous benefit.

Leaves of greens: Joy Larkoom's vegetable garden



ton-hole leaves "providing texture rather than flavour" in a salad. I recognized Mizuna, having myself just planted some of this robust all-year-round Japanese salad green...

WEEKEND TIPS

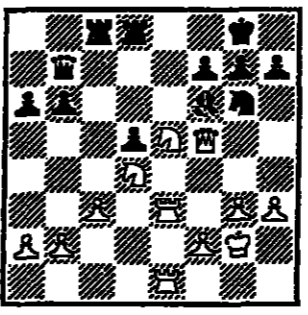
- Take winter hanging baskets and pots into shelter, or protect them with insulating material when very cold weather is forecast. Cut dead or dying stems from roses and prune repeat flowering kinds.

CHESS

Team works

deployment of his pieces and the isolated Black Queen's pawn on d5. This is not just a weakness in itself, but also cedes White permanent use of the d4 square for occupation by a White piece.

board, Speelman has correctly arranged the exchange of Black's light squared Bishop. 21 Bxf7 Qxf7 22 Kg2 Rxf8 23 Ne5 Qx7 24 Qf5 Ng6



Now Speelman translates his command of the centre into a direct attack against the Black King.

White uses his "h" pawn as a battering ram to smash open the defences surrounding the Black King.

An invasion by the White Rooks completes the demolition of Black's position.

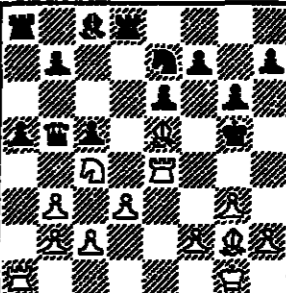
And Black resigned without waiting for White's reply. 36Rxf8+ Rxf8 37Rxe6 wins easily.

Raymond Keene

Grandmaster Clash, covering England's Olympic silver medal achievement, will be shown Sunday December 11, BBC2, at 9.30-10.25pm.

WINNING MOVE

In the diagram, White, to move, has sacrificed his Queen for a subtle win, exploiting the exposed plight of the Black King. What is White's winning move?



Solution to yesterday's position: 1 Rg7! Last Saturday's competition was a passion from the game Bogolyubov-Capablanca, New York 1924. Black's winning coup was 1... Rxf8.

OUTDOOR LEISURE

The Great Outdoors Under One Roof

Advertisement for J.C. Field & Stream, featuring various outdoor equipment like tents, awnings, and furniture.

Ken Muir PROPAGATORS & DISTRIBUTORS OF PHPS CERTIFIED FRUIT STOCKS

Advertisement for Ken Muir's fruit stocks, listing various raspberry and gooseberry varieties with prices.

Law Report December 3 1988 Court of Appeal

Defence of necessity in driving offence

Regina v Martin. Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Roch (Judgment November 29). The principles relating to a defence of necessity were stated by the Court of Appeal when granting a conviction for driving while disqualified because the trial judge had pre-empted a defence of necessity by ruling that it was not available on such a charge.

unless the appellant drove the son to work. The appellant had a statement from a doctor which expressed the opinion that "in view of her mental condition it is likely that Mrs Martin would have attempted suicide if her husband did not drive her son to work".

Arising thus it was conveniently called "duress of circumstances". The defence was available only if, from an objective standpoint, the accused could be said to be acting reasonably and proportionately in order to avoid a threat of death or serious injury.

Equally they could see no distinction in principle between threats of death, whether they posed a risk of death by murder, or by suicide, or indeed by accident. One could illustrate "accident" by considering a disqualified driver being driven by his wife, she suffering a heart attack in the remote country and he needing instantly to get her to hospital.

Payments were taxable pension

Johnson v Holleran (Inspector of Taxes). Before Mr Justice Morritt (Judgment November 18). Regular monthly payments from an employer's pension fund made to a former employee who was declared redundant while absent from work through illness constituted "on payments chargeable" under paragraph 181(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.

disability benefit by the trustees of the employer's pension fund. He appealed against the 1983-84 assessment claiming that he had received the payments totaling £6,656 in consequence of his being made redundant so that they were taxable under the provisions of section 187 of the 1970 Act (payments on retirement or removal from office or employment) and were thus subject to the exemptions provided in section 188(1) of the Act.

The commissioners dismissed the appeal holding that the payments of disability benefit were payments of a pension and were correctly assessed under section 187 of the Act (voluntary pensions).

No judicial definition of "pension" existed but clearly the taxpayer's retirement was not a necessary condition for the classification of the payments as pensions. Certainly his employment had to have ceased but not necessarily due to his retirement.

Advertisement for learning to paint on holiday, including details about dates and locations.

Advertisement for tennis holidays, featuring Jonathan Morrison Algrave and tennis courts.

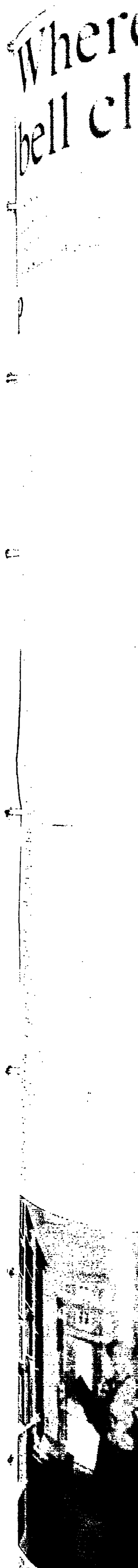
Advertisement for shoparound, offering window shopping alternatives and various goods.

Advertisement for Welly-Rack, a storage solution for tools and equipment.

Advertisement for bike peddlers, offering secondhand cycles and repairs.

Advertisement for Cornish & Worldwide Mineral Supplies, offering various minerals and jewelry.

Advertisement for quayside windsurfers, offering windsurfing equipment and lessons.



PROPERTY

Where the bell clangs

MPs looking for a London flat need a sense of timing: around Westminster the division bell rules, as Rachel Warren discovers

Pity the poor MP — or rather, the MP's spouse. Everything is neatly planned, the dinner party is going perfectly; then, from the hall, comes the sound of the division bell. Up jumps the Honourable Member, with no time for excuses. He or she has seven minutes, maybe eight, to make it to the Lobby — or face the anger of the whips.

Whether they run it, cycle it, cab it or drive it, an MP's choice of home or *pièce à terre* is determined by the division bell, the Palace of Westminster's traditional means of summoning members of both Houses of Parliament to vote. Its radius has never been precisely determined, but certainly stretches as far as Mayfair's Burlington Street, to Victoria and Pimlico, to Waterloo and to the Oval.

For estate agents, the bell is a selling point, particularly around election time: mansion blocks within its area become "division blocks". British Telecom will install the bell if an MP lives within reach of the Lobby, but at a price — there is an annual charge of £103.

"It allows you a degree of flexibility if you want to entertain," says Jonathan Aitken, MP for Thanet South, who lives about five minutes' brisk run from the Commons.

"Though my wife is constantly complaining about the dramatic exit. There was an evening when former President Nixon was here with a number of high-powered European politicians, all talking about state-of-the-world stuff, and they simply could not believe that I had to up and leave them when the bell sounded."

The bell gives Aitken the luxury of popping home to read bedtime stories to his children. "Though the chances are that the bell will ring just as you get to the exciting bit," he says.

For Cecilia Goodlad, wife of Alastair Goodlad, MP for Eddisbury, the pernicious bell dictates her guest list. Given the speed with which it can dissipate a dinner party, she never has more than one or two MPs among other guests.

Jim Gorman, husband of the Billericay MP Teresa Gorman, is equally disenchanted with the cream bell-box that rules their lives from the corner of the stairs. "It's very tiresome. It always goes off at the wrong time. Teresa thinks I should be sympathetic when it goes off at midnight. But I'm not."

Teresa Gorman herself has a love-hate relationship with her bell (which gets a firm rebuke with the butt of her umbrella when she wants to turn it off). "It's awful. It sounds like some old fire engine alarm which makes you jump out of your skin. But when it goes off in the middle of a dinner party it can give you a kind of status —

duty to the nation and all that — that is out of all real proportion to your importance. When I was dining next door and heard my bell go off through the wall, I was able to make probably the most dramatic exit I've ever made in my life.

"Often I get to the House and I'm told I've just made it with a couple of minutes to spare. You can't stop to sort out dishes or even turn off the stove. I've often left things cooking."

Prudential's sales manager Gerald Fitz-Gibbon says that prices in the division bell area range from around £100,000 to £150,000 for a one-bedroom flat, £130,000 to £300,000 for two-bedroom and £700,000 to £800,000 for the occasional elegant house on a Westminster square.

Fitz-Gibbon also handles a new development of more reasonably priced Crown Estate properties which could prove potential MP *pièces-à-terre* — from studio apartments starting at £105,000 to a £159,000 two-bedroom flat — on the corner of John Islip Street and Ponsonby Terrace.

There are currently a number of larger new Crown Estate developments that can offer the division bell attraction, such as Lindsay Square beside Bessborough Gardens, where 29 town houses are

selling for between £365,000 and £675,000 — the first such properties to come on to the market for some time.

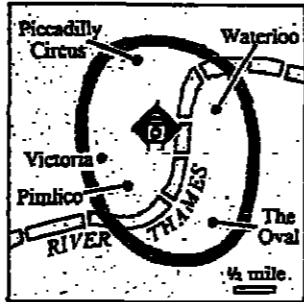
The "sound" of the bell carries surprisingly far south of the river, and has affected property prices in some unlikely areas. The story is told of the MP who lives near Brixton

and installed the bell, a little optimistically. The first time it rang he dashed for his car and was doing well until he was booked for speeding along the Embankment.

Edna Hunter, principal of Hunter Estates, ranks her parliamentary flats from the southern borders of Westminster in the busy Vauxhall Bridge Road, northwards through streets bordering on Westminster Cathedral. "Traditionally the most popular street for MPs," she says, "is Marsham Street, just a block away from the Palace."

In Marsham Street is Lockets restaurant, where the division bell has become a tourist attraction. It is one of the 25 regular parliamentary haunts looked after for British Telecom by Joan Garbutt, who often gets calls from estate agents asking about the bell's radius.

One property for sale (by Prudential) in the division bell area is a £140,000 old Dutch barge, ripe for conversion, moored off Sunderland Wharf on the Thames. But any MP tempted to buy it and install a bell should mark Teresa Gorman's words: "It is like being in the war, when the siren could sound at any time. You can't settle."



The great divide: Jonathan Aitken, MP, and his wife Lolcia, for whom the bell tolls, usually during dinner parties. Left, the main culprit at Westminster; top left, the area within its radius



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Teresa Gorman, MP: "The division bell can give you a status that is out of all real proportion to your importance"

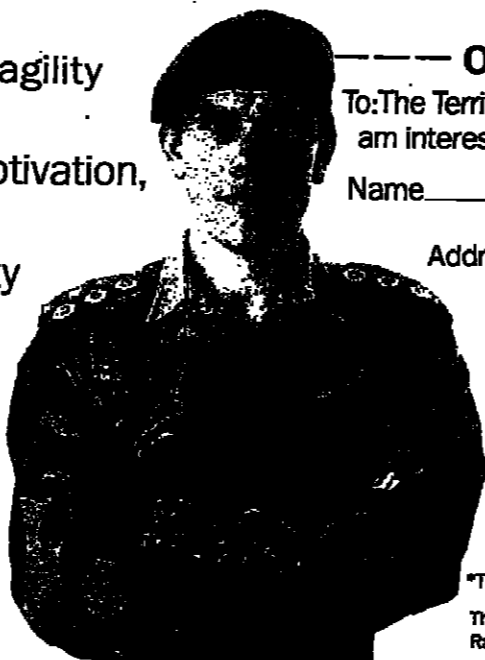


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